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Official Records

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. YITZHAK RABIN, LATE PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The President: Before we take up the item on our agenda for this morning, the General Assembly will pay tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin.

As the leader of his country, Mr. Rabin, in his wisdom, chose to lead his people down the path towards lasting peace in the Middle East, and for this he has made the ultimate sacrifice.

It was only two weeks ago that the reaffirmation of Mr. Rabin's dedication to the course of peace resonated in this very Hall. Today, as he is being buried, I have the very sad duty to extend, on behalf of the General Assembly, our deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Israel and to the bereaved family in their tragic loss.

It is our fervent hope that Mr. Rabin's life will not have been sacrificed in vain and that the international community and peoples of the world will be inspired by that life to abandon war and violence and to embrace peace.

I invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the late Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: I now call on the representative of Brunei Darussalam, who will speak on behalf of the Asian States.

Mr. Abdul Momin (Brunei Darussalam): On behalf of the Asian Group, I have the honour to express our most profound sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and to the people of Israel.

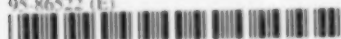
Israel has lost an outstanding leader and a man of peace. It is sad to witness once again a man and a leader of such courage becoming a victim of the violence that we have seen for far too long in the Middle East.

I am sure that I am expressing the feelings of members of the Asian Group when I say that the sacrifice of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will not have been in vain. His untimely death should be a reminder to all concerned of the urgency to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in that troubled region.

The President: I now call on the representative of South Africa, who will speak on behalf of the African States.

Mr. Jele (South Africa): The member States of the African Group have learned with deep shock and sadness of the assassination of Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, Prime

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Minister of Israel, over the past weekend. This criminal act, which should be condemned in the strongest terms, must surely have been committed by someone who has no interest in the general welfare of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

The death of Prime Minister Rabin is a great loss to the people of Israel and could threaten the peace process now under way in the Middle East. The African Group urges all the parties to the Middle East peace process not to be deterred by this tragic incident, but to draw strength from the firm belief that the legacy of Prime Minister Rabin's leadership would best be honoured by following the course set by him.

The States members of the African Group convey their condolences to the Rabin family and to the people and Government of Israel.

May his soul rest in peace.

The President: I call on the representative of Albania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Kulla (Albania): On behalf of the members of the Group of Eastern European States, I want to express deep sorrow at the perfidious assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel, the late Yitzhak Rabin. At the same time, I wish to express our most sincere condolences to his family and to the Israeli people and Government, as well as to all the peace-loving people of the region, who saw in the personality of the late Prime Minister a decisive and crucial promoter of the peace process of paramount importance to the Middle East and the whole world.

The unexpected and outrageous loss of Prime Minister Rabin, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, constitutes a new noble sacrifice — the high price that the civilized world is paying to ensure that tolerance, good understanding and coexistence prevail over hatred, disagreement and exclusion.

The strike against Prime Minister Rabin is at the same time an attack against the will of the large gathering which, only a few minutes before the criminal act occurred, was expressing clearly the support and hope that millions of Jews and Arabs and millions of others around the world saw in him and in other pioneers of peace in that part of the world, where war has taken so many lives over several generations.

However bitter this loss is, and however hard for the long path of peace, we express again our unshaken belief that the peace process in the Middle East will continue unharmed. Contrary to the aims of those who killed him, Prime Minister Rabin, through his sacrifice, will bring new impetus to the contribution and awareness of people who work in the region to achieve the much-desired peace.

The President: I call on the representative of Bolivia, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Camacho Omiste (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like, on behalf of the delegations of the Latin American and Caribbean States, to express profound sorrow at the tragic death of the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin.

The assassination of this distinguished statesman has deprived the international community of a leader committed to the cause of world peace. The circumstances of his death reveal intolerance and the persistence of tendencies opposed to the building of a society founded on the ideals of solidarity and understanding. The crime has shocked the whole world because Yitzhak Rabin incarnated the search for ways of *rapprochement* and reconciliation, with a view to securing imaginative and definitive solutions in the Middle East.

Therefore, the indignation and pain caused by the passing of Prime Minister Rabin commit the political will of the world to the process of transformation that he initiated, in order to bring about a lasting peace in the region and in the world at large.

The Latin American and Caribbean States extend their condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and to Israel's Government and people and its Permanent Mission to the United Nations. May God give rest to the soul of this illustrious statesman and inspire political leaders to promote understanding among human beings.

The President: I call on the representative of Norway, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. Lian (Norway): Members of the Group of Western European and Other States were deeply shocked and profoundly saddened by the news of the assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin.

We all condemn this despicable act of violence. Israel and the world have lost a great statesman and a visionary leader. Prime Minister Rabin showed great personal courage and determination in his search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. He was a main architect of the peace process, which he again praised and promoted on the last day of his life, just minutes before he was killed.

We all remember that, only a year ago, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize for his considerable efforts and for the considerable courage that he showed in taking the peace process forward. He was awarded the Prize because he brought hope and promise to all people who have been working, openly or quietly, for peaceful evolution in the Middle East.

And now, on the day of the burial of Prime Minister Rabin, we all feel the necessity of continuing his work towards peace. That is his legacy, and that is our responsibility.

On this day our thoughts and sympathy go to his wife, Leah, to his family, to the people of Israel and to all those who had faith in Yitzhak Rabin's abilities to create peace.

The President: I call on the representative of the United States of America as the host country.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): A deep sadness fills our souls — a blanket that stifles our smiles, a sadness that forces us to face very starkly the troubled world in which we live and die.

The tragic news of the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has deeply shocked and saddened my nation. As Secretary of State Christopher said on Saturday:

"History will record Prime Minister Rabin as one of the towering figures of this century. He dedicated his life to Israel, its security and the cause of peace. Heroic in war and in the service of his country, he pursued peace with the same courage and determination."

Our hearts today go out to the people of Israel and to Mrs. Rabin and her family at this most difficult time.

How many times have we gathered together in this Hall to mourn those who have fallen in pursuit of peace in our world? We recall our own Secretary-General, Dag

Hammarhjöld, so many decades ago, and we recall the many soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in various United Nations peace-keeping efforts. In each of our countries, small and large, the memorials to fallen peace-keepers grow longer each year.

The world indeed has lost a leader and a statesman, and it is indeed fitting for this Assembly, dedicated to the cause of peace, that we should mourn the loss of a man of peace. Israel has lost one of its finest sons. The United States has lost a strong and true friend. But, my friends, if history has taught us anything, it affirms that out of such tragic times comes a renewed determination to seize our own destinies and drive forward toward the goals of peace which Prime Minister Rabin and his partners for peace had set for themselves and us.

We will not be daunted. We will not succumb to grief. We will pledge ourselves to work with even more determination and dedication for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere in our world. With this pledge we pay tribute to Prime Minister Rabin and his vision for peace, remembering the words from The Beatitudes:

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (*The Holy Bible, Matthew 5:9*)

Mr. Peleg (Israel): My country very much appreciates the warm words and expressions of respect, sympathy and support which were said here this morning about Prime Minister Rabin and his commitment to peace, by you, Sir, and by the representatives of the geographical groups and the host country.

The day of 4 November 1995 is one that will live forever in the memory of Israel, its neighbours, and the international community. On that day, an assassin's bullet killed the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin.

The bullet was not meant for the man himself. The bullet was an attempt to stop the courageous march towards peace for all peoples of the Middle East. In the words of Yitzhak Rabin himself, in his last speech at the peace rally in Tel Aviv:

"I was a military man for 27 years. I fought so long as there was no chance for peace. I believe that there is now a chance for peace."

The Government of Israel is fully committed to continuing its efforts towards reaching a comprehensive

and lasting peace with all of its neighbours. It is our obligation — we in the Middle East and the international community — to make sure that Prime Minister Rabin's vision will not be lost. An assassin's bullet will not halt our efforts to achieve what Prime Minister Rabin had so boldly set out to accomplish.

In Prime Minister Rabin's speech to the General Assembly on 24 October 1995, he said:

"The road is still long. However, we are determined to continue until we have brought peace to the region, for our children and our children's children and for all the peoples of the region. This is our mission. We will fulfil it." (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 39th meeting, p. 26*)

Let these words inspire us in our journey towards peace.

Agenda item 40

Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal

Draft resolution (A/50/L.15)

The President: I call on the representative of the United States of America, Mr. Bart Conner, Sports Delegate, to introduce draft resolution A/50/L.15.

Mr. Conner (United States of America): My name is Bart Conner. I was a member of three United States Olympic teams, earning two gold medals in men's gymnastics at the 1984 Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles.

It is my extreme honour to represent my country at today's consideration of agenda item 40, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal".

On behalf of the 103 listed co-sponsors of the draft resolution "The Olympic Ideal" before us today, the United States delegation is honoured to note the presence of several Ministers of Youth and Sport, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, key figures of the Olympic Movement, distinguished Member State colleagues, and other dignitaries. We are grateful for their participation in today's activities.

As all competitors know, records were meant to be broken. This draft's co-sponsorship may well surpass that of last year's resolution — which was the second-most co-sponsored in General Assembly history — of 141. If 159 Member States co-sponsor the draft, this fiftieth session would set a record: truly an Olympic feat of the first order.

It is important to acknowledge the following 21 co-sponsors who have joined since the printing of this draft: Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, China, Costa Rica, France, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Togo and United Arab Emirates.

Given many crises clamouring for United Nations attention, why have so many delegations shown such interest in this symbolic sports issue? The answer is inherent: sport is a powerful motivating and unifying force all around the world. It is a force going far beyond mere final scores. It inspires us in our endeavours. Through it we witness — in personal drive, team sacrifice, angst and accomplishment — a devotion to the cause, to a goal, to an ideal, to the pursuit of excellence as an end in itself — and not merely to the reward.

Member States understand this unifying power of sport — the drive to persist towards a shared goal — and they rely upon it in their many efforts to build a peaceful and better world.

In the spirit of Olympic ethics and of fair play, the powerlessness of discrimination — racial, religious, political, or otherwise — is a glorious living demonstration of the world as one.

What is the Olympic Ideal? Taken from its ancient origin, it is the cultivation of the mind, the moral conscience, and the body; it is the equilibrium of values, forces and faculties. It offers the capacity to assimilate neighbouring civilizations and to be a decisive factor of progress within them.

In the modern era, for the last 101 years the guardian and promoter of the Olympic Ideal has been the International Olympic Committee. It serves the cause of peace by assisting the development of sport and culture, culminating in the global festivals that are the Games of the Olympiad. Its five interlocking rings, found to be the world's most universally recognized symbol, represent

the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from all nations.

In the words of United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali,

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition with respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school for democracy".

Regarding our question on why this symbolic debate draws so much interest, the Secretary-General concludes that

"there is a natural link between the ethic of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations".

In this spirit, the draft resolution supports further cooperation between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations system in joint preventive education programmes, such as anti-doping activities, drug-abuse prevention, environmental protection, and enhancing women's participation in all aspects of the sport movement. The draft encourages ministries of youth and sport to join in this collaboration.

What a pleasure it is today to be here and to see so many Olympic friends, people who have gone beyond their sporting successes to serve the goals of the Olympic Ideal, people who have taken what they have learned through sports and who are applying it to make the world a peaceful and better place.

They might agree with me that in this world you can achieve money and fame through luck, but luck will not turn you into an athlete who excels, be it through a world record or a personal best. Self-improvement and self-knowledge are precious things well worth the effort. The pursuit of a goal with excellence in mind is the shared bond among athletes, and it might be most evident in those who are physically or mentally challenged — all of whom we celebrate for what they can do, not judge for what they cannot do.

I have seen first-hand how sport fosters unity. But I also realize that it would be simplistic and naive to think that practicing sport is synonymous with working for peace. As I am learning from my friends here today, both sport and diplomacy seek to reinforce friendship between

peoples, and fair play means involving players with various interests and abilities rather than merely demonstrating power. Whether it be a 9-year-old boy in Norman, Oklahoma, or a 15-year-old girl half a world away, sport teaches all youth that they can share the same level playing field.

But let us get more specific. What are the real benefits of sport? People who are involved in sports better themselves and society. It is proven that people who play sports are more likely to join a team than join a gang; they are more likely to stay in school; they are more likely to make responsible decisions in favour of clean lives away from drugs and other dangers; and they are more likely to go on to higher education. The figures are solid and impressive. Sport can help us meet the human-centred development goals proposed by recent United Nations global conferences.

Also, these facts and figures have sparked the International Olympic Committee to expand into humanitarian activities for underprivileged youth around the world. Their efforts towards a peaceful and better world are happening on a daily basis: stress in refugee camps is handled through organized basketball tournaments; war-torn sports facilities are rebuilt; and coaching clinics teach rules and fair play. As we can see, the Olympic flame is a small package, yet how brightly it shines, how far its warmth extends.

The International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal (1994), proclaimed at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, called on the International Olympic Committee to support the peace initiatives undertaken by the United Nations and other regional political organizations.

The Olympic Truce, first sworn in Greece in the ninth century B.C., called for the cessation of all hostilities during the ancient games. Its observance in the modern era took effect only recently as a result of the forty-eighth and forty-ninth General Assemblies. Member States have agreed with President Samaranch that

"The Olympic Truce must serve to promote dialogue, reconciliation and the search for durable solutions so that peace may reign throughout the world and human suffering cease".

Today's draft reaffirms the Olympic Truce and schedules its reconsideration in advance of each Summer and Winter Games. Therefore, the United States

delegation here and now affirms the observance of the Olympic Truce during the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games.

It has been my country's honour to have hosted the Olympic Games in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Lake Placid and Squaw Valley. And now, the United States looks forward to welcoming the world to Atlanta in 1996, the opening ceremonies being only 256 days from today.

We invite further co-sponsorship and the consensus adoption of the draft resolution before us today, "The Olympic Ideal", in document A/50/L.15.

Mr. Peerthum (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The Acting President: Before calling on the next speaker, I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed at 11.15 a.m.

I hear no objection.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to inscribe their names on the list as soon as possible.

I now call on His Excellency Mr. Francesco Fulci, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations.

Mr. Fulci (Italy): Before making my statement, I should like to join the President and the representatives of our geographical groups in expressing the shock and profound sorrow of my country, Italy, at the tragic news of the assassination of the Prime Minister of Israel, His Excellency Yitzhak Rabin, and to renew the sincere and deep condolences of the Italian Government and people to the Government and people of Israel. Yitzhak Rabin has become a martyr of peace, for his tragic death is a loss not only for Israel but for all true lovers of peace the world over.

Our sincere hope is that the courageous march to peace in the Middle East will not be stopped by a murderer's bullet.

The XXVI Olympic Games will mark the centennial of the revival of the Olympic Ideal. They will provide a symbolic opportunity to pause and reflect on the role of sport in today's world. The United Nations cannot fail to

recognize the continuing, increasing relevance of sporting activities in our societies. Sport is such a global phenomenon that it can certainly contribute greatly to building a more peaceful and a better world. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly considered this item for the first time and commemorated the centenary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by proclaiming 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal. On that occasion, the General Assembly, in response to the appeal of the International Olympic Committee, urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce from the seventh day before the opening to the seventh day after the closing of the Olympic Games. This was done for the first time on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, from 12 to 27 February 1994.

This year's draft resolution calls again upon Member States to observe the Olympic Truce during the upcoming Atlanta Games. In view of recent developments in attempts to reach a political settlement in the former Yugoslavia, this appeal is especially relevant. In Africa, from Liberia to Angola, prospects for a lasting peace have been revived. May the Olympic flame bring hope also to countries such as Somalia, where the darkness of hatred and violence still prevails.

Italy has always been a strong, convinced supporter of the Olympic Games and of the International Olympic Committee. Our Secretary of State for the Prime Minister's Office responsible for sports in Italy, the Honourable Lamberto Cardi, had planned to attend this meeting to further underline Italy's commitment to the Olympic Ideal and Olympic activities. Unfortunately, last minute difficulties prevented him from being here. So he asked me to convey Italy's support to the Committee and, in particular, to its President, the Marquis de Samaranch, support which I am glad to express also by co-sponsoring the draft resolution before the General Assembly, as already announced already by the representative of the United States.

The International Olympic Committee has forged many cooperation agreements with a number of organs, organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations. In this connection, let me recall the very strong relationship between the Committee and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) through a cooperation agreement signed last February. This translates into reality the commitment of both the IOC and UNDCP to expand drug abuse prevention programmes by including sports services

aimed at deprived communities and youth at risk. As a first step in this cooperation, an international conference sponsored by both organizations was held earlier this year in Rome, during which athletes of international renown were invited to campaign against drug abuse. The conference provided an opportunity to review the status of knowledge and experience on the use of sports as a means of reducing illicit demand for drugs. This is but one example. There are many ways in which sports and the Olympic Ideal can contribute to the building of a peaceful and better world. Practising a healthy lifestyle, of which sporting activities are very much a part, is of fundamental importance in the development of the physical, intellectual and emotional potential of young people in order to make them responsible adults at ease in society.

Allow me to conclude by expressing the hope that today's celebration of the Olympic Ideal in the General Assembly will not remain a single event. May it instead mark a deeper involvement of the United Nations in this field, a field so close to people's minds and to people's hearts.

The Acting President: I now call on His Excellency Mr. Edgar Camacho Omiste, Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations.

Mr. Camacho Omiste (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Allow me to convey to the President of the Assembly a message of friendship from my country's National Secretary for Sport and a warm greeting from the youth of Bolivia. I would also like to greet the Ministers of youth and sport attending the General Assembly at this session and the President of the International Olympic Committee.

Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal is a lofty goal that Bolivia is pleased to share, since it reflects the international conviction that sport is a particularly apt means to promote reconciliation and unity among peoples, beyond all differences of politics, religion, ethnicity, culture and standards of living between nations.

We are all a single species of rational beings and, as such, enjoy the same rights, dignity and value, wherever we may live and whatever our language, job or economic standing. In order to achieve physical and spiritual fulfilment, human beings need the recreation, hobbies and entertainment provided by games, competitions and self-expression through art and sports.

Sport teaches us to value and properly preserve the environment. It promotes understanding of and respect for the diversity of peoples, cultures and countries and the national characteristics of each. Wherever human beings live, artistic and sporting activities flourish.

Today it is unacceptable to segregate or discriminate against human beings on the basis of the colour of their skin, where they live or the altitude above sea level at which they conduct their activities. Sport must serve to unite peoples and promote peace and equality between nations and the harmonious development of humankind.

The role of sport in promoting peace is one of the best legacies of ancient Greece. Indeed, there is no other human activity which possesses the same moral force and can do so much to promote universal health. Sport transmits lofty ideals, joy in living and the desire for free expression. It stimulates a feeling of healthy competition, it improves health and constitutes a factor for moral and social education. It therefore contributes to the building of a world of peace.

Sport must be a primary activity for young people and should be practised at all ages, even by those with physical limitations. In a time marked by violence, hatred and drugs, sport is a sign of hope and solidarity. It is a true pleasure for Bolivia to join in sponsoring the draft resolution before the Assembly; we call upon the Assembly to support it.

The Acting President: I now call on Mr. Vilnis Baltiņš, President of the Latvian Olympic Committee.

Mr. Baltiņš (Latvia): Today, on the eve of the one hundredth anniversary of the revived Olympic Games in Greece, with the passing of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and as we mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, Latvia speaks for the first time in our history on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal".

Latvia's admission to the United Nations in September 1991 was followed by the International Olympic Committee's decision to renew our participation in the international Olympic Movement. We are honoured to be part of the family of nations and of the Olympic family.

Latvia has been included in the category of countries which are commonly referred to as new and small. Our

statehood is not new. Rather it has been re-established. Our road to independence began with a non-violent revolution during which the world witnessed unprecedented solidarity of hearts and minds after 50 years of illegal occupation. During those 50 years, Latvia had 18 Olympic champions and received 66 Olympic medals. The world did not know those champions as representatives of Latvia, but rather as part of the Soviet team. The pursuit of our identity and self-determination through sports was an important element for the promotion of our national self-confidence and our country's quest to re-establish its independence.

The pain of improper recognition in past Olympics is still with us today. I speak from my own experience as a member of the Soviet national team for eight years. But our experience — be it living under a totalitarian regime while dreaming of freedom and independence, or forming a new sense of public awareness in a free State — allows us to testify to the importance of sport and the Olympic Movement as an integral part of the life of a nation.

Latvia extends its gratitude to those who laid the foundation of the modern Olympic Movement. The ideals the Movement has set for sports, as well as the organizational framework that has allowed the Movement to retain its independence and popularity, are noteworthy. We can be thankful for the wisdom of the leaders of the International Olympic Committee for developing the Movement to a level sufficient to catch the attention of the United Nations. However, we should not forget the goal of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, namely that the International Olympic Committee should keep the spirit of amateur sport alive and exclude outside influences that could undermine the spirit of the Games.

Over the past 50 years, the International Olympic Committee has supported Latvian athletes as members of the global Olympic family in spite of the subjugation of sporting institutions to political goals and repeated politically motivated boycotts of the Olympic Games. For Latvia, sport became our international means of harmonious communication and development.

Sport is one of the important ways in which the peoples of Eastern Europe, including Latvia, had an opportunity to begin a new and peaceful life. For small nations, international sports provide a forum where one's own identity and the vitality of one's nation can be appreciated by others. Therefore, faith in the future is born. We know that there are more small nations than large nations, and perhaps through the ideals of sports the

differences between large and small nations will become insignificant. A nation will be as great as its will.

Sports is a gauge of democracy in society, especially in a transitional period. In sports, everything is open and on display. It is a mirror by which society can look at itself. Any discrimination, whether nationally or racially motivated, is immediately visible. Latvia has learned the international language of sports, the language of fair play, and we truly feel ourselves members of the global sports family living up to the Olympic Ideal.

Because of present difficult economic realities, we must find a balance between top sports and sports for all. During this transitional period, we sometimes feel inertia in our thinking; then we regain our strength from the Olympic Charter. The Olympic Charter, the bible of the Olympic Movement, was only available in Latvia after the re-establishment of our independence and the advent of democracy.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that in this hour of darkness when a soldier of peace has been assassinated, we will achieve a position in the world where sports as a force for peace will facilitate the resolution of global problems.

The Acting President (*interpretation from French*): I call next on the representative of France, Mr. Guy Drut, Minister for Youth and Sports.

Mr. Drut (France) (*interpretation from French*): We came to this Assembly today to celebrate the contribution of sports and the Olympic spirit to the ideals of peace and United Nations solidarity. The tragic death on the evening of 4 November of the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin — a major architect of peace in the Middle East — has cast a pall of sadness over this day of hope and brotherhood. In the face of this crime, this injustice, our first duty is to bow our heads to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin and to associate ourselves with the bereavement of his family and of the Government and people of Israel.

It is of course as a Minister but also as an Olympic champion that I am honoured today to speak from this rostrum and to participate in the celebration of the Olympic Ideal. Indeed, France, the homeland of Pierre de Coubertin, is more than ever dedicated to promoting and defending the Olympic values inherited from ancient Greece. Having been honoured to host the Congress of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Paris in

1994, 100 years after the announcement of the revival of the modern Games, my country learned a great deal from the tremendous work done there. I should therefore like to share with the Assembly a few brief thoughts on the promotion and preservation of these Olympic values.

First of all, France wholeheartedly welcomes the ever-growing importance of sport and the Olympic spirit at the United Nations. My presence here today confirms the priority which we attach to an Ideal of which one of the fundamental principles is:

“wherever possible to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind with a view to establishing a peaceful society that strives to preserve human dignity”.

The French Government fully adheres to this principle, which it applies in its own sports policies. I should like personally to thank the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, for his tireless efforts over more than 15 years to ensure that the Olympic Ideal enjoys its proper place in international relations.

Today, sport is a fundamental element in the lives of our societies. Hence, Governments cannot and must not ignore it. In France, our organization is 50 years old, dating from a 1945 order of the Government of General de Gaulle. Ever since, particularly through the creation of a Ministry for Youth and Sports and in close cooperation with the sport movement, we have constantly striven to develop a policy aimed at deriving the greatest possible benefit from the virtues of sport. Sport is an integral part of a citizen's education. It is above all a school for democracy because, as Coubertin said:

“It combines teamwork and competition, those two essential pillars of democratic societies, without which they are liable to become so weak that they finally collapse”.

Sport is also a school for tolerance and social integration, particularly for young people. On the subject of integration, I should like to emphasize the concerns surrounding the place of women in overall sport policies. France supports the activities undertaken by the IOC on this matter at the recent meeting in Beijing — where an entire paragraph of the Platform for Action was devoted to gender equality in sport — and at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 26 September 1995, where precise goals were set in this regard for the years 2000 to 2005. At

the national level, we have included such requirements in the model statutes of sports federations.

Moreover, sport is essential to health and in the struggle against certain scourges, such as drugs. Finally, as Jacques Chirac, then Mayor of Paris, pointed out at the most recent IOC Congress, sport

“can serve the great causes of our times, such as the protection of the environment”.

It is thus not surprising that the major sport-related themes of States' policies should also reflect the recent strengthening of cooperation between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations. France is in favour of this.

My country is also eager to preserve these values, to which we are deeply devoted. I wish to cite three examples of aberrations that threaten the Olympic Ideal.

First, there are the violence and the lack of respect for the sporting spirit, which constitute attacks on the spirit of tolerance at the very time -- 1995 — when that value is being celebrated by the United Nations. Through new national legislation and in close cooperation with its partners in the Council of Europe, with which it signed a convention in 1985, France is doing everything possible to combat this scourge, but, above all, to nip it in the bud through very active education campaigns aimed at sportsmen and the public. The next soccer World Cup, to be held in our country in 1998, will be a valuable opportunity to glorify the sporting spirit. We will, of course, support any initiatives taken on this subject at the international level.

Secondly, there is the anti-doping campaign, supported in France by appropriate and particularly rigorous national legislation. In close liaison with the national sports movement and the IOC, we are intensifying our cooperation within the Council of Europe and also with certain highly motivated States. Hence, this year France joined the “memorandum of understanding” group, which includes five other countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom. The essential purpose of this group is to improve the effectiveness and credibility of the anti-doping campaign through certain targeted priority actions: the harmonization and standardization of control procedures, reciprocal spot checks on athletes of member countries, and the establishment of protocols for international research aimed at achieving in the near future the ability

to detect major doping agents in the body, such as certain hormones, that are undetectable today.

I stress the need to involve States in these matters, which have an altogether logical connection to the sport movement within their sphere of competence. How can I conceal our concern at the apparent passivity of certain important countries whose national Olympic committees, if I am to believe well-informed observers, seem to be encountering serious resistance to their anti-doping policies? This problem should be addressed clearly and solemnly. France hopes that, inspired by the convention signed within the context of the Council of Europe, the other States Members of the United Nations will reinforce their mutual cooperation with the competent agencies of the United Nations in the anti-doping campaign. Such voluntary actions on the part of our States, in close partnership with the Olympic Movement, would affirm our common desire to solve the very serious problem of doping and thus of drugs in general.

Thirdly, for a number of years now France has raised in many forums the delicate question of the relationship between the world of sports and money. In this regard, it has attempted to spell out the role of States and of the sport movement, to which it has of course dedicated a branch of its civil service. This guarantees strict respect for a number of ethical rules.

The French system, as I have said, is 50 years old and based on the principle of unity. This unity allows for coherence in a policy that takes account of the financial aspect of contemporary sport but is designed to correct its excesses and aberrations.

We are also devoted to the universality of the Olympic spirit so that the trend towards a certain overweening expansion does not exclude the less-developed countries. For that reason, we also welcome the IOC's policy of Olympic solidarity and are developing a national bilateral and multilateral cooperation strategy through the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking countries, of which 43 francophone countries, mostly from the South, are current members. In our opinion, sport must become a genuine element of development assistance. We are working to that end by using our diplomatic services to fully integrate the sporting dimension into our foreign relations.

I should like to stress the degree to which sport and diplomacy have common objectives: the aim of both is to strengthen friendship between peoples and to promote

dialogue. France cannot but rejoice at seeing the Olympic Games become once again truly universal. Despite our full awareness of all the breaches of this universality — which were, unfortunately, all too frequent in the past — we believe in the contributions sport and politics have to make to each other.

The International Olympic Committee has been the stimulus for this through its activities with the United Nations to promote observance of the Olympic Truce during the 1994 Winter Games. France, which has been playing a leading part in re-establishing peace in Bosnia, hailed the initiative by President Samaranch at that time to go to Sarajevo, where those same Winter Games had been held 10 years earlier, and my country was proud to contribute to the success of his mission.

We are in favour of the notion that, during the centenary Games next summer in Atlanta, the Olympic Truce should once again be observed. This ideal of peace was perceived by Henry de Montherlant, who, although he was one of France's most pessimistic writers, described the inaugural ceremony for the 1924 Olympics, in Paris, in the following terms in his "Third Olympics":

"All the flags rose, mingled their folds, each covering another with the motion of a great caress. I admit it: it sent a tingle up my spine. Could it really be so impossible for us all to put up with each other? In the final analysis, was this not a promise to humankind?"

As I am optimistic by nature, I do not ask myself this question. To me it seems altogether desirable that every two years, before the Olympic Games, we should be able, at the General Assembly, to look at the problems that bring us all here. I am convinced that the Olympic spirit, that torch lit by Pierre de Coubertin and whose splendour grows with every passing year, will, together with the United Nations, grant and fulfil the promise of peace.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Spain, Mr. Rafael Cortes-Elvira, Secretary of State for Sports.

Mr. Cortes-Elvira (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My first words are to express the sorrow of the Spanish people and to transmit our condolences to the Israeli Government and people, and to the bereaved family, on the tragic loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Although his physical presence is no longer with

us and his voice will be heard no more in this Hall, his legacy of peace remains. It is up to us all to see that the house of peace that he was in good measure responsible for building does not come tumbling down.

I should like to begin my speech proper by thanking the General Assembly, and the Secretary-General in particular, for including the debate on the contribution of sport to building a peaceful and better world in the fiftieth anniversary events. We have a number of reasons for our gratitude.

The first is the recognition by this greatest of organizations of the values of sport, so paving the way for international politics to make one of its fundamental contributions, *rapprochement* between peoples and cultures. Secondly, it has provided a magnificent meeting-point for those in charge of sport worldwide, enabling us to harmonize our ideas and exchange opinions in the quest for common objectives. Thirdly, we are grateful because, in this forum of peace and concord where the paths of dialogue and agreement must always be open, sport has had the opportunity to render international relations a magnificent service by mitigating intolerance, radicalism, xenophobia, violence, racism and discrimination, which are blots on our society that give rise to marginalization, tyranny and war.

It is a duty on us all to foster and assist all activities that promote peace and concord, and to use sport as much as possible in improving the way the world lives together through *rapprochement* between peoples — a task that is incumbent on the public authorities and also the international organizations that work for sport.

Resolutions 48/11 and 49/29, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 and 1994, are solid proof of the shared responsibility of States and the International Olympic Committee as they move forward in the relationship between general and sports politics on an international scale.

Modern sport has conquered the world: this is the most important mass social phenomenon of the end of the twentieth century, and is a source of social relationships that transcend national groupings. Sport is an instrument of *rapprochement* between nations that enables us to rediscover happiness, understanding, communication and friendship, all of which go right to the world's heart.

In this noble task, the International Olympic Committee has not hesitated to bring its best efforts to bear

to mitigate the suffering that afflicts so many countries. It is therefore quite right and proper for me to recall some of the International Olympic Committee's steps in this direction.

The Committee has brought down the political temperature that until recently affected the Olympic Movement, a fact that is shown tellingly by the fact that 169 countries took part in the XXV Olympic Games, which my country staged in Barcelona, and by the increasing number that are to take part in the next, in Atlanta.

The International Olympic Committee has made an outstanding contribution to modern sport's conquest of the world, which has enabled us to strengthen international cohesion.

For sport to be able to realize its full value in promoting international understanding, the principle of fair play must be adhered to, and here the International Olympic Committee has been an example to follow and a bastion of hope.

The Olympic Games, whose centenary we are approaching, are milestones in the lives of an increasing number of people which enable us to come up with new ideas on international issues, a necessary precursor for true and genuine political relationships.

We should also point to the International Olympic Committee's laudable cooperation with various United Nations bodies, whether in food aid programmes for children in war-torn areas or in rebuilding sports facilities destroyed by war.

We cannot forget the work accomplished in 1994, the centenary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee, to promote international understanding between the world's young people through sport and culture, with a view to advancing humanity's harmonious development. Nor can we forget the effort to fulfil General Assembly resolution 48/11, which claims the Olympic Truce as a motor for mobilizing the world's young people in favour of peace.

These are some of the reasons that justify a *rapprochement* between Governments and the national olympic committees, and, moreover, that between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, with the objective of achieving democratic societies made

up of citizens who are active in their defence of close and lasting human relations.

It is my honour to address the Assembly, and it is cause for special satisfaction to me that it is a Spaniard, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, who is presiding over the destiny of the Olympic Movement and is the real motive force behind the noble task being carried out by the International Olympic Committee today.

I should not like to fail to mention my country's sensitivity to the pain and suffering of those who are seeing their lives and hopes rent by bombs and intolerance. Our fortunate geographical situation makes us a meeting-point for the races. The mixing of cultures that forms our history forces us to be generous and sensitive in such situations, participating in the various United Nations mandates in areas where there is war or social crisis, where our men and women have not hesitated to contribute their generous efforts, and even their lives, in the cause of peace. It is therefore right and proper for me to remember them before those gathered here.

Spain, which has the honour of holding the presidency of the European Union this second semester of 1995, has not hesitated to back all initiatives in favour of peace, and has therefore joined in sponsoring the draft resolution the Assembly is preparing to adopt today.

The *Consejo Iberoamericano del Deporte* (the Ibero-American Sports Council), a body in which all the Ibero-American countries cooperate, and which works jointly with the Olympic committees in those same countries, is a good example of shared responsibility between the public and private sectors that will be further strengthened by the draft resolution which, I hope and wish, it will be possible to adopt by consensus.

Spain and its Government have backed sport as an instrument of understanding among peoples; our programmes of cooperation with so many other countries are evidence of this. Here I would like to mention His Majesty The King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, and his family as firm promoters of this policy of active support for sport who recognize the positive values it conveys, especially to young people. For this reason the nation I have the honour of representing considers it of primary importance for developed countries to create collaborative sport programmes, directed towards the most deprived areas and focused on: the promotion of the construction of sports facilities and the reconstruction of those damaged by war; the training of technical personnel to enable sport

promotion, programmes to be planned and developed, especially for youth; and the promotion of campaigns aimed at youth and adolescents, which will give further impetus to the practice of sport and prevent violent or criminal behaviour.

It is up to us to extend the beneficial effects of sports as widely as possible, particularly in areas devastated by violence or marginalization. It is an obligation which Spain will live up to, an obligation in which the International Olympic Committee has a part to play, and thus its voice should be given appropriate importance in this forum which I have the honour to address.

The draft resolution we are about to adopt increasingly involves the International Olympic Committee in humanitarian activities, ultimately contributing through sport and the Olympic Ideal, to the creation of a better world in which peace prevails. Thus, the Spanish delegation sponsored this draft resolution in the hope that it will be adopted by consensus, and with the conviction that it will allow progress in building a world which, inspired by sport, plays to win.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Poland, His Excellency Mr. Stefan Paszczyk, Minister for Sports and Tourism.

Mr. Paszczyk (Poland) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Sport is struggle and competition. In sport, there is confrontation between individuals and nations, which identify with their representatives or competitors. However, the world would be much happier if struggles were limited to the playing fields. The objective of sport is, however, always the same: to overcome individual limitations and weaknesses, to beat a rival in open struggle, competing in accordance with the principles and rules of a particular sport. Sport brings us closer to each other. At the same time, it is an activity of the masses, not only at the national level. The International Olympic Committee is an organization in which practically all States are represented; and its contribution to the building of peaceful relations and friendship in the world should be underlined in this forum.

In ancient times the period of the Olympic Games was a time of peace. Today sport is one the best and most effective instruments for promoting mutual understanding and bringing nations closer together. On more than one occasion it has opened the way for the improvement of relations between States and societies.

At the same time, in an increasingly standardized world, sport brings out differences. Through it, patriotism and national pride are openly expressed in a positive way. This is an important element in the education of new generations. It creates possibilities and opportunities for youth, for peaceful competition, mutual knowledge, understanding and respect, regardless of race, belief or country of origin.

The positive effect of sport on young people and its educational and socializing values were stressed *inter alia* in the discussion and manifesto adopted this May by the European Ministers of Sport at their meeting in Lisbon, as well as a few weeks ago at the European Conference on Sport. At these meetings, and in the work of the Council of Europe, the important role sport can and should play in the struggle against all forms of discrimination and intolerance has been repeatedly stressed. This is an important challenge for all of us in the world of sport. This can be our contribution to healing social and international relations, and to building an assuredly better and more peaceful world. Such an understanding of the function and role of sport is not valid only on the international scene; it must be appropriately reflected in actions undertaken at the national level.

We perceive sport and its role in a very broad perspective in Poland today. Continuing and sustaining the positive traditions of physical education and our Olympic Movement in Poland, we are fully convinced of the important role of sport in the life and social policy of a modern State. We also see the role of sport and education in the universal Olympic Ideal as an important element in the development of the country, which is in a specific phase of political, social and economic change and is opening up to the world and different communities. The watchword for us is the well-being of the individual and society — "health through activity".

The building of a better and peaceful world begins with shaping the stances, attitudes and behaviour of the youngest. We are carrying out a mass sports programme for all children, which complements physical education classes in school. We hope that in the year 2000 some 60 per cent of the school population will belong to the sports clubs for schoolchildren organized by fathers and their children, so that they will be healthier and develop better. The most gifted at sport will find places in sports schools and clubs, where they will continue their education based on the Olympic formula "*Citius, altius, fortius*" and compete in two national events — the School Youth Games for children and the Youth Olympics for young people. In

the very names of these competitions we see the symbols and the spirit of the ideals of the Olympic Movement. We would like to instil in our youth the principles of fair play, not only on the sports field but in all facets of lives. We want to educate them through sport and for sport.

We are on the eve of the XXVI Olympic Games, to be held in Atlanta. Polish sportsmen and sportswomen will take part in this sports celebration of the end of the twentieth century. We are convinced that by both their conduct and their results they will demonstrate the rightness and effectiveness of the programmes being conducted in Poland.

We would like the ideals and examples of sporting conduct learned in youth to remain strong and respected in adulthood. Hence, our determined action to promote universality and free access to the various kinds of participation in sport for all, with the family, in the locality, both in the city and in the countryside.

Taking into account the unsatisfactory state of health in Polish society, we are still not satisfied with the extent to which Poles participate in sports for all. On the other hand, in the light of the increasing awareness of and the changing attitudes to the question of health in society, we hope that by the end of this century more than half of Polish people will be taking part in some form of sport.

In our view, sport and education through sport provide great opportunities for the handicapped. The joy of movement, of health and of the social role of sports must be made accessible to this sector of society too. We have embarked on specific action, including the creation of infrastructures and special facilities, the number of which will be doubled within the next five years.

On the other hand, Poland attaches particular importance to integration through participation in sport, bringing the able-bodied and the disabled together. We see in this endeavour both the educational and the social values of sport. These wide-ranging activities will culminate in competitions for the handicapped, leading to participation in the Paralympics and the Special Olympics. It is with satisfaction that I stress Poland's traditions in this movement and the results that have been achieved in popularizing the Olympic ideals among the handicapped.

Sport has a valuable personal and social dimension. In Poland, it is also a feature of State policy. Thus, the Polish Government is responsible for the creation of

conditions for its practice. This is reflected by, *inter alia*, in increase in the public funds allocated for sports.

In view of the extensive role of sport in modern society and of the need for specific initiatives in this regard, we wish to emphasize another of its functions — its role in counteracting growing and important social threats. Although sport itself is not faultless — I refer, for example, to the illicit use of anabolic drugs — it can play a positive role in combating certain diseases and pathological conditions in our civilization, such as drug addiction and alcoholism.

Sport is also an important factor in fostering humanistic attitudes towards all religious intolerance and social or racial discrimination. A man brought up in the spirit of the Olympic Ideal can identify himself as a true member of the world's community striving for well-being and peace.

This is just a brief account of the policies and actions being undertaken in Poland. These have as their aim the development, health, fitness and increasing openness of society. They derive from State policy and responsibility in this area but, at the same time, are increasingly the result of the attitudes and activities of individuals and local communities. In this sense, they constitute a social programme in which everyone can find a place.

I am convinced that, in this area, people can unite, in accordance with the Olympic Ideal, for the common good, striving, through sport, to create a better and more peaceful life. This is just one current of the change that is under way in Poland, which is becoming increasingly universal and popular and, therefore, ever more important in the building of a modern State.

I am convinced that this process will thrive and will come to embrace more and more participants, creating in our country a situation that will contribute to fulfilment of the formula for a healthy life through activity common to all the citizens of a well-organized and peaceful world.

At the same time, I should like, as a man of sport, to express my great satisfaction that the question of sports has found a place in this forum. For 50 years the United Nations has been promoting the maintenance of peace in the world and, through organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, has been reaching the young generations. It is my hope that sport, with all its

possibilities, will strengthen this endeavour and make its own contribution to the process.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Guinea, His Excellency Mr. Ibrahima Diallo, member of the International Olympic Committee and Vice-President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Mr. Diallo (Guinea) (interpretation from French): This prestigious General Assembly Hall still echoes to the celebration of our Organization's fiftieth anniversary, with the presence of Heads of State and Government of Member States. Throughout 1995, young people's, women's and workers' organizations have joined their Governments to celebrate this event and to express their hope for peace, security and development.

Today, the Olympic Movement, which was very much involved in this celebration through its sporting organizations and Olympic academies, is once again being faithful to cooperative endeavour in the service of peace and understanding between peoples and nations.

I should like to take this happy opportunity to welcome the presence here of the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch — who is accompanied by a large delegation from the IOC — in response to the invitation issued through resolution 42/29, adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

The increasingly close relations between the United Nations, its specialized agencies and the International Olympic Committee may be surprising to some. However, a reading of the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter will reveal striking similarity and concord between the objectives of the two international organizations. The Charter of the United Nations — I refer to the second paragraph of the Preamble — says:

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined

...

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, ..."

Likewise, the Olympic Charter 2 proclaims the following as its second fundamental principle:

"Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example, and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles."

It is therefore clearly established that, on the basis of these common objectives, the United Nations and the IOC have given priority, first, to serving the peoples, athletic organizations and others that are still the essential components of our nations and their respective Governments. This cooperation did not begin yesterday. Indeed, it was on 15 November 1920 that Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the then President of the International Olympic Committee, in a letter addressed to the Belgian Paul Hymans, the President of the Assembly of the League of Nations, welcomed the birth of the League. In his letter, Pierre de Coubertin said:

"For 26 years now, in the field of sporting activity, our Committee, the IOC, has been introducing and applying those very principles which serve as the foundation of the League of Nations and which, from Olympiad to Olympiad, have been achieving ever closer and ever more effective international cooperation."

More than 70 years later, the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, declared:

"In this International Year for Tolerance, it is our conviction that in the future, as in the past, the Olympic Movement will be able to demonstrate its conciliatory strength and its humanism on behalf of peace and international understanding."

We can add to this what was said by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali:

"In the International Olympic Committee, the United Nations has a very valuable ally in its activities for peace and rapprochement among peoples."

This is what explains and justifies the close cooperation between the United Nations system and the

International Olympic Committee. It is therefore desirable for our Organization to give a more important place to its relations with the Olympic Movement, which guides and mobilizes the most precious resource of our countries — our young people.

Indeed, while this session was celebrating the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year last week, the presence of a number of Ministers and others responsible for youth and sport clearly indicated the need to give our close attention to the crucial problems of the future and the destiny of our young people. In these efforts, the Olympic Movement, through its sporting and educational structures, is an indispensable and very appropriate partner. The sporting spectacle of the Olympic Games or the World Cups, which are nowadays a blend of both sport and culture, can leave no Government or people indifferent.

The exemplary value of high-level sporting events relayed to the entire world through the mass media is the best training for citizenship, fair play, respect for the human individual, and friendship among peoples. One has only to have experienced the popular fervour and the joy of an entire nation — irrespective of views and feelings — when one of its athletes wins an Olympic medal or when a national team emerges victorious from a continental or world competition.

It is such phenomena that enable us to gauge the impact of sport on the social and cultural life of a people or a nation. The United Nations and its specialized agencies can not overlook these realities. It is precisely because the future of the world depends largely on what becomes of our youth that the delegation of the Republic of Guinea believes that it would be highly desirable for the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, to consider the possibility of creating a special committee to study the holding of a world conference on the problems of youth.

Returning to item 40 of our agenda, my delegation is pleased to support the request voiced by many co-sponsors that the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution which we have before us now in document A/50/L.15 by consensus.

The better to mark the General Assembly's solidarity with the youth of the world and the international Olympic Movement, I respectfully invite all Member States that have not yet become co-sponsors of

this resolution to be kind enough to do so with the Secretariat so that we can set an unprecedented Olympic record.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Monaco, His Serene Highness Crown Prince Albert of Monaco.

Crown Prince Albert (Monaco) (*interpretation from French*): First and foremost, I should like to address the Government and people of Israel and to express to them the profound emotion felt in the Principality of Monaco when we learned of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. On behalf of His Serene Highness, the Sovereign Prince, on my own behalf and on behalf of all Monaco's people, I should like to convey our most sincere condolences to the people of Israel and to the bereaved family, and assure them of our deepest sympathy. The courage of this great statesman, this man of peace, has won the admiration of all. May his example and his sacrifice serve the cause of peace, not only in the Middle East but also throughout the world, by strengthening the solidarity of the just against the forces of obscurantism, extremism and barbarity, fed by hatred and contempt.

In resolution 49/29 adopted at its forty-ninth session last December, the General Assembly decided to devote a debate to the theme "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal" at its fiftieth session, which also marks the fiftieth anniversary of this Organization.

This initiative is fully in harmony with the desire expressed for almost two years now by the International Olympic Committee and its President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the world Olympic Movement. As Chairman of the delegation of the Principality of Monaco to the General Assembly, and as a member of the International Olympic Committee and former participant in the Olympic Games, I felt it was natural for me to speak in this debate.

It is my feeling that the United Nations and the Olympic Movement share a single universal ideal: to promote peace and understanding among nations and among peoples, with all their differences and their complementary features, by contributing to bringing cultures closer together and to promoting friendship among human beings in this world so often battered and torn apart. Recent and distressing events have proven once again that nations and their constituent populations are capable of confronting each other, in the context of

unheard-of violence and brutality, on the pretext of the most primitive and backward ideologies based on perverted and totally obsolete concepts and ideas of race or ethnicity.

Many of these struggles are fratricidal. Hatred rises suddenly to the surface and gains sway in communities that are close to one another, between neighbours, between friends, and even within certain families who until then had been living in peace and deep-rooted symbiosis, respectful of each other's differences, and enriched by the multiple links created through space and time.

The international Year for Tolerance, which the United Nations has placed under the auspices of UNESCO, that is to say under the aegis of education, science and culture, is concluding in the intolerable. The community of nations, like the community of athletes and sportsmen, is wondering what the sources of these evil manifestations are and the reasons for their malignant nature.

Undoubtedly, they are multifaceted and too numerous to be analysed and for their possible consequences to be forestalled. Efforts to ensure peace are sometimes successful in this respect, but never without great difficulty. The rapid and often far-reaching changes in the underlying causes of violence, the paradoxical evolution of some societies, and technical progress make such efforts ever more complex and their conclusions ever more uncertain.

All means available to eradicate these scourges should be combined to enhance the effectiveness of our efforts: the United Nations in the political field; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of education, science and culture; and the Olympic Movement in sporting circles and among young people.

Such cooperation between the United Nations and the international Olympic Movement was already evident with the proclamation of the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal and with the reaffirmation of the ancient tradition of the Olympic Truce. It should therefore continue through long-term initiatives and actions to promote the Olympic Ideal and Olympic principles and values, in order to give rise to a culture based on peace and respect for fundamental human rights, in particular the right to life, to dignity and to health. It should be based on an increased determination

to protect and to preserve a healthy and balanced environment, and to combat doping, drugs and, above all, violence in sport.

In this respect, the International Association for Non-Violent Sport, which is headquartered in the Principality of Monaco, has, from its very inception, pursued this objective with determination. With the help of others, it has made possible the achievement of essential progress. Our vigilance should nevertheless remain constant and unflagging.

The Pierre de Coubertin international fair-play trophies — awarded annually under the auspices and with the assistance of UNESCO by an international committee of eminent personalities — deserve mention here. Indeed, they make possible the discovery and spotlighting of men and women whose sporting spirit and tokens of friendship have stood out at both the individual and the collective levels. In this connection, I would recall the unforgettable picture of the two African athletes who, hand in hand, completed a lap of honour in the women's 10,000-meter at the last Olympic Games. That symbolic gesture, which deeply moved the entire world, must have been inspired by that moral code which we, as political and Olympic leaders, must make better known and better respected.

Athletes, with the help of their national authorities, surely can play, on a permanent basis, a greater and more decisive role in bringing people together and in enhancing global understanding. I believe very sincerely that this is true. Regular cooperation between the two institutions — the United Nations and the Olympic Movement — should continue and should be strengthened in future in order to increase understanding among peoples and to promote peace.

Over and above the preventive and largely educational duty — which has become clear to all — of sport and of the Olympic Movement to combat hatred, violence, racism and the conflicts that derive therefrom, the International Olympic Committee, international federations and, in particular, the national committees surely could help also to provide humanitarian assistance by cooperating closely with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Olympic athletes, and I should like in particular to mention several who are here today, such as the triple Olympic champion Johann Olaf Koss and gymnastics champions Nadia Comaneci and Bart Conner — who spoke earlier in this meeting — have already taken the initiative

of pointing the way in this area by joining together in the American association "Spirit of Hope", determined to devote their dynamism to the service of humanitarian causes and to lend their energy, over and above field of sport, to the building of a better world.

I believe that in these troubled times, which are marked by indiscriminate violence against children, the Olympic Movement should increasingly act, and play a greater role, on behalf of children.

George Bernanos warned us that "the world will be judged by children". In this spirit, I should like to propose that with the help of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a body whose effectiveness is deeply respected, operations be undertaken to increase medical assistance to children during armed conflicts. It would be remarkable, for instance, if the forthcoming Atlanta Olympic Games could be used as an opportunity to undertake, in areas of armed conflict, campaigns for the medical care and the general vaccination of children. The Olympic Truce would then take on its full value, and its practical and concrete consequences would be of incalculable benefit to the children of the world. I am convinced that warring countries would suspend their hostilities so that these vaccination and medical-care campaigns could be brought to all those children in areas of conflict.

Unarmed force in the service of the law, of the protection of the weak and of disinterested humanitarian activities would undoubtedly be one of the best contributions the Olympic Movement could make to respect for human dignity, to the protection of human rights, and, ultimately, to peace.

The Acting President: I now call on Mr. Enrique Otero Navarro, President of the National Sports Council of Peru.

Mr. Otero Navarro (Peru) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My name is Enrique Otero, and I am President of the National Sports Council of Peru.

My country has a rich tradition dating from the era of the Inca empire, an empire which occupied a large part of South America and which maintained its unity for many centuries thanks to a system of communication by which news and mail were transmitted from person to person by runners who covered specific distances. History tells us that each of them ran a quarter of a league, a measurement of that time which is equivalent to

5,572 metres. These athletes were called "chasquis". At each stage of the run, there was a shed, in which the "chasqui" could rest and wait for the next relay. In this way, the Inca empire was able to maintain a constant communications and supply line.

We are told by the principal historian of the epoch, Garcilazo de la Vega, that news from the most distant points took just four days to arrive in Cuzco, the capital of the empire, located in the Andes mountains at an altitude of 3,400 metres. Orders were transmitted in the same way. He also tells how the Incas enjoyed meals made from fresh fish, which was possible because the route the runners used, known as "the route of the Incas", was a straight line between the points they wanted to connect. Thus the distances to be covered were smaller, but the effort of each "chasqui" was greater.

Thus, as history shows, sport and physical prowess have always been part of the development of peoples and have been at their service.

Therefore I should like to state that in our own history as well as in our common history we find the fundamental concept of the Olympic Ideal, which promotes international understanding through sport and culture with a view to ensuring the harmonious development of humankind.

The Olympic Ideal, which spurs us to build a peaceful and better world, is the spirit that animates the will and a philosophy of life that should always be with us, inspiring us to use sport for the comprehensive development of man in order to promote the establishment of a peaceful society committed to the preservation of human dignity.

I am from a country that was for many years racked by terrorism and other social and economic problems. Fortunately, that is now history. Now we are working to build a better world for all Peruvians, and we believe that physical activity and sport are the ideal crucible in which to create the man of the future.

Our one objective is to use sport to promote comprehensive and balanced human development as part of our efforts to produce better Peruvians. This would raise our sporting level in the major international disciplines so that we could try to obtain significant results that would improve Peru's sporting image. We are pledged to attaining that goal.

Our strategy is based on development in all social sectors — in schools and universities and among the

workforce, the elderly and the disabled — with appropriate planning, by promoting proper training for professionals, providing the proper infrastructure, using the applied sciences in sport and fostering and decentralizing sporting activity.

One example of this is a programme called "poles of development" which refers to the search for and identification of possible sporting talent among children, between the ages of 7 and 13, with special aptitudes and characteristics, in order to help them in their comprehensive training. Thus, when later on they compete in high-performance events, they will do so in the best possible physical condition and technical circumstances.

This programme is being carried out across the nation. We had to identify which specialized areas or sporting disciplines to develop, bearing in mind, *inter alia*, young people's traditions, Peru's diverse climatic zones — ranging from the high sierra to the tropical coast and the Amazon forest — and, of course, the biological characteristics of Peru's inhabitants.

Highlighting a social aspect of sport, surveys carried out in the outlying districts, known as "young towns", of Peru's major cities showed that the third leading concern of the inhabitants was access to sports complexes for the area's families.

I am sure that attention will be drawn by the fact that families with difficult, important problems to solve long for a sports complex. But the simple fact is that such a complex would give them peace of mind with regard to their children's recreation and promote family unity, since all its members could take part in various activities at the weekend. This, then, becomes a factor of unity within the family and the community. We should also consider that sports events provide the best opportunity to show man's true behaviour, since competitive situations, because of the dynamism and emotion involved, reveal spontaneously the significant characteristics and features of man's personality.

I would like to state that it is an honour for me, as a representative of Peru, to be among the sponsors of and contribute to the development of such an important subject as that of building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal. Naturally, I would like to congratulate the International Olympic Committee and its President, His Excellency Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.

I also wish to take this special opportunity to put forward an idea that would no doubt promote motivation and training through sports that are free of discrimination of any kind and in keeping with the spirit of the Olympic Ideal, which calls for mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship, solidarity and, above all, fair play. My proposal to the Assembly is to create an international United Nations fair-play prize to be awarded every year to the student athlete who, in the judgement of a special committee, has acted most in a spirit of generosity and solidarity with his or her team-mates and competitors and demonstrated the true meaning of fair play in student sporting events throughout the year.

Candidacies would be properly documented and submitted to the General Assembly by the highest official responsible for physical education and sport of each country. The prize would be the construction of a small sporting complex in a place that needs and wants it, in recognition of the winner of the United Nations prize, thus converting a worthy act of good sportsmanship into an act of great social benefit.

I hope the Assembly will find this proposal attractive. In this way, a gesture of solidarity and generosity by an athlete will be a contribution to the well-being and integration of a better and more peaceful world.

Mr. Karayev (Azerbaijan): Inclusion of the item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal" on the agenda of the General Assembly is a clear manifestation of the important role played by sport in human development. The Olympic Ideal of friendship, solidarity and fair play without any discrimination became a decisive factor in establishing contact between the youth of various peoples throughout the world and of different religious and racial affiliations.

All of us, gathered in this body, deeply care about the future of mankind in the third millennium as well as about what kind of values will then prevail. Maintenance of international peace and security with the utilization of adequate means, including sport and the Olympic Ideal, has become the basis of the 50-year-old activities of the United Nations which now bring together 185 States. The delegation of my country is convinced that today's discussion will make its contribution to the strengthening of peace.

We are proud of the fact that right after Azerbaijan achieved its independence the International Olympic Committee, embodying the world sporting community,

granted the Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan membership in the International Olympic Committee and, ever since, has been paying serious attention to the sporting life of our country. Availing myself of the presence here with us of the President of the International Olympic Committee, His Excellency Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, I would like to express to him our deep appreciation for his visit to Azerbaijan in 1994, which, in itself, was a concrete illustration of what I have just said.

It is with a sense of particular responsibility that my country is preparing for the Centennial Games to be held in 1996 in Atlanta, the United States of America, where the Azerbaijani Republic, as an independent, sovereign State, will be represented for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games by its own national team. By decree of the President of the Azerbaijani Republic, a special State commission, headed by the Prime Minister, has been set up to carry out all preparatory work on the eve of the Games. Despite enormous economic difficulties facing Azerbaijan today, my Government decided to ensure the participation of Azerbaijani sportsmen in all international competitions preceding the 1996 Olympic Games.

Furthermore, we are deeply convinced of the extremely rich potential of sport which is not confined to the achievement of good results and the broadening of international contacts and youth cooperation. Sport constitutes an important and effective part of the policy of the Azerbaijani State in the field of bringing up a morally and physically healthy young generation capable of adequately responding to social challenges.

It is hard, however, to speak about either a successful and broad application of the educational potential of sport or sporting achievements in a country where the mass aspect of sport — one of its fundamental principles — has been violated as a result of aggression by the neighbouring Republic of Armenia. Instead we are dealing with another mass — 1 million refugees, 300,000 of whom are children and adolescents. Words can hardly describe all the moral and physical sufferings these people are subjected to. One terrifying example of evidence of that was the outcome of medical examinations of 250 children from the ages of 6 to 10 in one of the tent camps in the Sabirabad province of Azerbaijan conducted with the participation of experts from the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization. Two of every three children examined had physical deficiencies and were ineligible to practise sports.

The Ministry of Youth and Sport, together with the above-mentioned United Nations specialized agencies, is in the process of elaborating and implementing a number of special programmes aimed at the physical and psychological rehabilitation of this category of children by means of sport, which are believed to bring about definite positive effects in this respect.

In this connection I would like to emphasize that such situations also prevail in many other regions faced with armed conflicts, natural calamities and other phenomena hindering due social development of children and youth. It is evident that adequate assistance has to be rendered to this particular category.

My delegation believes that Member States should consolidate their efforts with a view to elaborating necessary measures and creating conditions for utilizing the rehabilitative abilities of sport in dealing with stress-affected children and adolescents. The United Nations, together with the International Olympic Committee, could play a coordinating role in this field.

Such assistance would, on the one hand, considerably accelerate the process of society's psychological recovery after surviving the catastrophe of war, and, on the other, would bolster joint actions by respective Governments and their Olympic committees in the field of propaganda for sport and its significance in bolstering the health of the nation. In short, it would make the role of sport in building a better world more significant.

For 17 months now the cease-fire has been holding in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. This is

direct evidence of Azerbaijan's strong commitment to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes between States. In his address to the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, His Excellency Mr. Heydar Aliyev, expressing the will of the people of Azerbaijan, declared that:

"... we condemn all kinds of aggression in any part of the world. We want peace: peace in the whole world, peace in our region, and peace and good-neighbourly relations with all States". (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 36th meeting, p. 6-7*)

Further to this, we firmly support the idea of the Olympic Truce, and appeal to the world community with a proposal to go even further and proclaim the whole period prior to the opening of the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta a period of peace, and 1996 — the year of the Centennial Olympics — a year of sporting and not military competition.

The Acting President: Before adjourning the meeting I should like to invite representatives to remain seated, as immediately following the adjournment of this meeting we shall hear an address by the President of the International Olympic Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.



General Assembly

Fiftieth Session

51st plenary meeting
Monday, 6 November 1995, 3 p.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral Portugal

In the absence of the President, Mr. Camacho Omiste (Bolivia), Vice President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Typhoon in the Philippines

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): May I, on behalf of all of the members of the Assembly, extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of the Philippines on the tragic loss of life and extensive material damage which have resulted from the recent typhoon. May I also express the hope that the international community will show its solidarity and respond promptly and generously to any requests for help.

I now call on the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Allarey (Philippines): In the name of the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, I would like to acknowledge with a profound sense of appreciation and thanks, Sir, your expression of commiseration and sympathy for the unfortunate victims of the super typhoon "Angela" which struck my country last week.

The death-and-missing toll now stands at over 600, and damages to infrastructure, crops and property have been extensive. President Fidel V. Ramos has declared a state of disaster in the islands of Luzon and the Visayas and has taken personal charge of relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas.

As we pick up the pieces and start rebuilding our lives, we take comfort in the knowledge that our friends and neighbours, the members of the international community, are with us during this time of adversity.

I shall certainly convey the sentiments that have been so kindly expressed in this Assembly on behalf of the Members of the United Nations to my Government and to my countrymen.

Agenda item 40 (*continued*)

Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal

Draft resolution (A/50/L.15)

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): Before calling on the first speaker, I should like to inform the Assembly that the representative of Nigeria has requested to participate in the debate on this item.

Inasmuch as the list of speakers was closed this morning, may I ask the Assembly whether there is any objection to the inclusion of this delegation in the list of speakers?

Since there appears to be no objection, Nigeria is included in the list of speakers.

I now call on the representative of Romania, Mrs. Lia Manoliu, President of the Romanian Olympic Committee.



Mrs. Manoliu (Romania) (*interpretation from French*): It might be presumptuous to imagine that we who belong to the world of sport have the power to silence the guns. War has often demonstrated that it is stronger; hence the Olympic hiatus between the years 1936 and 1948, which resulted from the Second World War.

But the recognition of a relative weakness in the face of the forces of evil does not necessarily mean the recognition of impotence. I personally have had the privilege of participating as an athlete in 6 Olympic Games, and as a member of the Romanian Olympic Committee, in 7 others: 13 Games that did not all take place in optimal internal and international political conditions. Nevertheless, I am gratified to note that my country has respected the genuine Olympic spirit throughout these Games and throughout this half century. Romania has never boycotted an Olympiad. There has never been a Romanian athlete who refused to take on an opponent for political, ideological, religious or racial reasons. The Romanian public, in turn, has avidly followed the conduct of the Olympic Games, and the very natural desire to see the representatives of its country achieve victory has never prevented this wonderful public from unreservedly admiring the performance of other competitors.

It was a real process of education in the pure Olympic spirit of peace, with mutual understanding and awareness between peoples — a process which involved not only several hundred athletes, but also millions and millions of Romanians. Guided by this spirit of total dedication to Olympic values, Romania is among the traditional sponsors of the draft resolution on the Olympic Ideal, whose most eloquent expression — the Olympic Games — constitutes one of the most important social and cultural phenomena of our modern era, within which a collective heart beats: the heartbeat of the Olympic athletes.

What other idea could be equally shared by the highly developed and the developing States? What other institution would be able to bring together young people from all over the world — young people who have reached the classic age at which they become cannon fodder — despite the current tensions, the hostilities and the upheavals? What other movement would be able to bring together young people who come from countries which have been adversaries for centuries or for decades, or even from countries openly at war at a given time in history?

Regarding the organization and the direction of the Olympic Movement, a pivotal role is being played by His

Excellency Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, who, through his policy of engaging in personal contacts and through the prestige which he enjoys throughout the world, within the most varied of political and diplomatic circles, has succeeded in making the Olympic Movement an interlocutor of the most representative and the largest world forum, the United Nations. The result has been first and foremost the proclamation by the United Nations of the year 1994 as the International Year of Sport and of the Olympic Ideal.

The Romanian Olympic Committee, which in 1994 celebrated its eightieth anniversary, reacted enthusiastically to the International Olympic Committee's appeal concerning that commemoration by organizing sports programmes as well as cultural programmes, which were favourably received by the public in its country. The respect and credibility which the Olympic Movement enjoys in the eyes and the hearts of billions of people throughout the world made it possible for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to put forward the proposal to respect an Olympic Truce inspired by the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheria*.

The Romanian people, which was passionately following the Olympic Games in Sarajevo, was a stunned witness to the massacre committed on the outskirts of and within this Olympic city, barely a thousand kilometres from Romania. And, unfortunately, such conflict situations continue in various parts of the world. It is entirely logical and very human to ask that the guns should fall silent, at least for the brief moment — the 16 days — of Olympic competition in 1996. I paraphrase Neil Armstrong: this would be a small step on the long road to peace throughout the world.

In July 1996 we shall celebrate, in Atlanta, the centenary of the Olympic Games. More than 100 nations will be there — literally, through the presence of their athletes — and billions of people will be there in spirit, side by side with the athletes. We call on those involved in struggles — not in the arena but on the various fronts — to stop the massacres and, instead, to follow the games and note that it is possible to solve rivalries other than through war.

Let us hope that 1996 — the year of the Olympic centennial — will mark not only the organization of the most prestigious Olympic Games ever but also the fulfilment of that golden dream of the initiator of the modern Games, Baron Pierre de Coubertain: "May sport lead to peace."

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Swaziland, His Royal Highness Prince Sobandla, Minister for Home Affairs of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Prince Sobandla (Swaziland): The Kingdom of Swaziland is not being deliberately redundant in repeating the words of other representatives in congratulating Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral of Portugal on his deserved election to the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly at its historic fiftieth session. The members of Mr. do Amaral's team too are worthy of our congratulations.

The theme of this meeting is clearly spelt out in the title of the agenda item. But before voicing the sentiments of my country I should like, through you, Mr. President, to express our sympathy and sorrow over the sad events that have occurred in the State of Israel. The manner in which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lost his life reminded me of our father, King Sobhuza II, who said that out of violence comes no peace.

We, the small and developing nations, have been accused of employing the principles of peace and dialogue as a shield to protect ourselves from those whose powers, both in aggression and in defence, are mightier than ours. This may be true, but we still hold to the traditional practice of solving problems by peaceful means. This applies to personal misunderstandings, party political squabbles and international disputes.

It is not only Israel that is in pain today. A number of peoples in different countries are suffering from various ills, some of them the results of natural causes. We hope that the Almighty will heal the wounds of the people of the Philippines following the typhoon about which we have all heard so much.

Coming to the agenda item with which the Assembly is dealing today, one cannot disregard historical records, which reveal that the Olympic Truce was established, in ancient Greece, in the ninth century before Christ. This was marked by the signing of a Treaty between Kings — Iphitos of Elis, Cleosthones of Pisa and Lycurgus of Sparta — which was subsequently ratified by all the other Greek city-States. In part, the Truce provided that athletes, artists and their families and ordinary pilgrims could travel safely to participate in or attend the Olympic Games and to return to their respective homes.

Talking of contemporary experiences, I should say that I was privileged to lead my country's athletes to the Olympics in Barcelona, where we were joined by the King of Spain and other dignitaries from all over the world. The same happened when we went to Victoria, Canada, for the Commonwealth Games, where the Queen of the United Kingdom tirelessly worked to promote sports. Just two months ago Africans gathered in Harare, where President Mugabe hosted the biggest and most successful games ever held on African soil.

None of our athletes came home from any of these encounters with regrets. We could not have experienced the same warmth, tolerance, love and appreciation for others within the boundaries of our individual countries. No community, no society, no country has a monopoly on giving young people throughout the world these treasured experiences. That is why I believe that we need one another for the promotion of knowledge and peace.

Speaking in my capacity as Chairman of the Supreme Council of Sports in Africa, Zone VI, I can confidently say that the 10 countries in the region appreciate the manner in which the Charter of the United Nations takes cognizance of the need to develop friendly relations between nations, on the basis of respect for the principle of equal rights, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.

It is heartening also to note that, in its resolution 49/29 of 7 December 1994, the General Assembly called upon my colleagues — Ministers for sports and culture — and to other officials to participate in the debate that is taking place today. The Olympic Ideal has been aptly described by the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in the following terms:

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition with respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school for democracy. In other words, there is a natural link between the ethic of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations."

The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland strongly advocates such a spirit, and I am here to support that spirit. The Olympic Truce must be given its rightful place in promoting dialogue, reconciliation and the search

for long-lasting solutions in order to allow peace to reign throughout the world.

Over the years it has often been stated that one should not mix sport with politics. Recent events, however, have indicated the contrary. Sport, if properly used, arguably provides the best therapy for creating peace, and bringing balance and sobering effects in times of strife.

We therefore call upon our colleagues all over the world to review their attitudes towards sport and to exploit fully the avenues they provide in the quest for a peaceful world. Our indifferent approach to youth and sport needs thorough scrutiny. One may argue that because of our strained fiscal resources, especially in the developing world, it is impossible to elevate sport to its rightful pedestal. A full reappraisal of the role of sport may convince us that sport is a worthwhile investment if we are to bequeath succeeding generations a world in which peace and the dignity of mankind are secured.

The Government of Swaziland is appreciative of the role played by sport in the international arena. In this connection, our sports policy recognizes that sport helps foster friendship. I am the first to admit that we have not done enough to transform the Olympic Ideal into the Olympic reality. Introspection is inevitable, therefore, if we are to be able to face the future without trepidation. We have to invest our money in youth and sports for a better world. Let this also be put on record: we owe the world and the future to our youth. That is why every Government should offer youth the best, which can be done precisely through sports.

I wish to address the Assembly on the question of drugs and the intensity with which this problem has engulfed the whole world. I would be remiss if I omitted to mention a sad phenomenon which has infiltrated the sporting fraternity: drug abuse by youth and the sports fraternity, which is undoubtedly inimical to the interests of these groups and the international community at large. If this issue is not addressed it will sound a death knell to the Olympic Ideal and will never allow the Ideal to mature into a reality.

As some of my brothers and sisters have done, I call upon Governments, the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee to rise up and deal swiftly, decisively and collectively with this scourge. Let us make concerted efforts to combat this menace; otherwise, the future of our youth may end up in untold peril.

Let us interpret to the fullest the old adage that says prevention is better than cure.

May I conclude by stating that the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland associates itself with the Ideal, as it coincides with its age-old principle of mutual coexistence. I hereby affirm my Government's willingness to cooperate in the fullest realization of this Ideal, as endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity pursuant to resolution CM/Res.28(LXII), which was adopted in Addis Ababa by the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers on 23 June 1995.

Mr. Bhandari (Nepal): We are deeply shocked by the news of the brutal and barbarous assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin. I wish to express heartfelt condolences, on behalf of my delegation and the people and the Government of Nepal, to the bereaved family and to the people and the Government of Israel. Mr. Rabin lived and died for peace.

In pursuance of the relevant resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, we are committed to emphasizing and re-emphasizing the role of sports and the Olympic Ideal in building a peaceful and better world. This is not only a question of commitment; it is also the truth of our conviction.

In the last few decades, Nepal has been steadily improving in its scope and quality of sport. Like most countries, Nepal believes that the development of sports activities will in effect help the development of a vibrant and energetic society. Sport is fun and excitement, joy and recreation. Above all, it is creative, in the sense that authentic sportsmen and sportswomen create an enduring atmosphere of peace and well-being.

My delegation would like to suggest that *ekecheria*, or Olympic Truce, should not be limited to the cessation of all hostilities during the Olympic Games. The young men and young women who make an impressive gathering during the Olympic Games should pledge to work for peace and harmony in the world throughout the rest of their lives. For they know that the psychology of victory and defeat is more illusory than real. They know that depression, bitterness or elation is but a transient phase.

Coming as we do from the country of Lord Buddha, the foremost apostle of peace the world has ever known, our mind-set is consciously and subconsciously influenced

by his message of universal love and friendship. We cannot but be excited by the General Assembly's reaffirmation that the Olympic Ideal is to promote international understanding among the youth of the world, through sport and culture, in order to advance the harmonious development of humankind, and by the recognition that the Olympic Ideal is relevant to the United Nations Year for Tolerance, which is being commemorated in 1995. Nepal cannot be apathetic or indifferent to the measures for peace and prosperity that the United Nations has taken in its resolutions.

One of the purposes of the United Nations, as enshrined in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. In this context, my delegation is pleased to note that 1995 has been declared the United Nations Year for Tolerance, which has been celebrated throughout the world with programmes jointly organized by the International Olympic Committee, various relevant agencies of the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), international sports federations and national Olympic committees.

My delegation also appreciates the efforts of the International Olympic Committee to mobilize athletes and youth in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the United Nations Year for Tolerance. We express our gratitude to the International Olympic Committee for its humanitarian activities, such as food-relief assistance to children in conflict situations, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In keeping with the tradition of the Olympic Ideal, Nepalese youth will participate, with other fellow sportsmen and women from all over the world, in the observance of the Olympic Truce in the forthcoming Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta next year in order to promote international understanding and the maintenance of peace in the world.

The Olympic Ideal originated during democratic rule in Athens, and we are certain that it will be sustained fully and entirely in a dispensation that is essentially democratic. My delegation believes that the proper use of the Olympic Ideal is necessary for the building of a more peaceful and better world. This ideal, established more than 2,000 years ago and dedicated to building a world in which people are whole and healthy in body and in mind, can be an effective force in the creation of a harmonious new world order.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Portugal, His Excellency Mr. Júlio Miranda Calha, Secretary of State for Sports.

Mr. Miranda Calha (Portugal): I wish at the outset to express the condolences and sympathy of my country to the Israeli people and to the family of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He will remain in our memory as a great statesman who dedicated his life to the cause of peace, and we sincerely hope that this terrible loss will not affect the ongoing peace process in the Middle East.

It is a great honour for me to address this Assembly, as I believe that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, together with the celebration of the International Year for Tolerance, constitute an excellent opportunity for us to underline the continued importance of contributing to a more peaceful and better world through sports and the Olympic Ideal. Activities carried out in the name of this ideal have played a decisive role in the promotion of understanding among nations, especially since the end of the Second World War.

The General Assembly, by declaring 1994 the Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, paid tribute to the centennial of the foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This decision represented a just recognition of the activities undertaken by the Committee and of those who have anonymously and selflessly contributed to developing the modern sports world.

The Olympic Movement not only was the springboard for the organization of modern sports but is the glue that keeps them together. Its activities, as the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has defined them, are both permanent and universal. It was thanks to this movement, supported by many countries, that an international network of activities and relationships was created and consolidated, based on ideals that promote human ennoblement and on rules deeply rooted in tolerance and loyalty. Only in this way has it been possible to attain the current spectacular levels of excellence and high standards that are normally associated with today's international competitions.

Alongside these notable achievements, the activities undertaken by countries through sports associations and the Olympic Movement have contributed decisively to the creation of a sports culture among millions of people, who are searching, through sports, for physical well-being, social contacts, contact with nature or merely an escape from the stress of daily life. These

characteristics allow athletes to be particularly conscious of the need to defend the principle of respect for human dignity. Consequently, sports and the Olympic Ideal have now been linked to the major concerns of humanity, such as the protection of the environment, the pursuit of peace, the prevention of disease and the alleviation of human suffering.

It is with great pride and satisfaction that my country has joined in sponsoring the draft resolution before us today, introduced by the representative of the United States of America, which appeals to Member States to support the activities of the International Olympic Committee, especially those that seek to strengthen ethics and fair play. The draft resolution also calls for the reaffirmation of the observance of an Olympic Truce during the Games of the XXVI Olympiad. Indeed, thanks to the appeal already made by this Assembly and to the efforts of the International Olympic Committee, the Marquis de Samaranch was able to visit Sarajevo at the time of the Lillehammer Winter Games of 1994.

In this context, the newly elected Portuguese Government welcomes all initiatives developed by the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, and is willing to participate fully in them. Portugal has been actively involved in peace-keeping activities of the United Nations in Angola, in Mozambique and in the former Yugoslavia, either through diplomatic initiatives or by sending peace-keepers to the field.

Portugal intends to pursue its efforts towards the achievement of world peace and international development, and considers that a decision to put these matters before this Assembly on a biennial basis constitutes a very positive step. The Atlanta Olympic Games are approaching. The observance of the Olympic Truce during the 16 days of the competition is a major challenge faced by international sports leaders and those responsible for world diplomacy. It can constitute an important move towards conflict resolution and provide an opportunity for the parties to conflicts to work out their differences.

It is up to us to ensure that sports and the Olympic Ideal continue to contribute towards a better world.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Senegal, Mr. Papa Baboucar Mbaye, Vice-President in charge of International Relations, National Council of Youth of Senegal.

Mr. Mbaye (Senegal) (*interpretation from French*): The theme of our meeting today, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal" pricks the universal conscience about the need for men and women of goodwill to promote a framework of peace and solidarity at every level. Sport and the Olympic Ideal are the essential ingredient in this undertaking, as history and modern practice prove every day.

At a time when the world seems to be heading straight for an era of radical upheaval, when peace is being assailed on all sides, respect for the Olympic Truce is more urgently needed than ever before.

On the eve of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, which will be held in Atlanta next year, Senegal solemnly reaffirms its support for the United Nations initiative and urges Member States to adopt the draft resolution now before the Assembly.

The youth of my country also calls on the glorious International Olympic Committee and States to place particular emphasis on education programmes for peace based on the recognized virtues of sport and the Olympic Ideal, which have become the most reliable bastions of social interaction, tolerance and understanding among peoples.

On the threshold of the third millennium, we venture to hope that the ideals of de Coubertin and the Olympic spirit will continue to inspire humankind's onward march towards universal harmony.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Canada, Mr. Adam Ostry, Director-General of Sport Canada.

Mr. Ostry (Canada): First, I wish to transmit to the Assembly, on behalf of the Canadian delegation, our most profound and sincere condolences on the death of Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. The world has lost a great statesman dedicated to peace and reconciliation. The prayers of the Canadian people are with the family of Prime Minister Rabin and with the people of Israel.

It is a distinct pleasure and a great honour for me to speak on behalf of Canada on the occasion of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Canada is committed to supporting the principles embodied in the draft resolution on the Olympic Ideal.

Canada has a long and distinguished history of support for Olympism and the Olympic Movement. Great national pride was expressed from coast to coast in Canada when we hosted first the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics and then the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary. Canada's commitment has not ceased renewing itself. Our bids to host the 1996 Summer Olympics in Toronto and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Québec City attest to our sustained loyalty to the Olympic Ideal. Indeed, this loyalty was also underscored by the strong commitment from all levels of government in Canada to providing direct financial assistance to both Toronto and Québec City had they been successful bidders.

Canada's ongoing commitment to Olympism expresses itself in other ways as well. In Québec City, in the spring of 1995, Canada hosted the International Congress of the International Sporting Press Association (AIPS) and the World Forum on Physical Activity. Canada has demonstrated a strong commitment to the principles of fair play and ethics in sport, notably through policies and programmes to increase access by women to sport and through our efforts in relation to anti-doping. In July 1994, Canada endorsed the Brighton Declaration on Women in Sport on the occasion of the *Jeux de la Francophonie* in Paris.

Canada hosted the First World Conference on Anti-Doping in Sport in 1988, from which the International Olympic Anti-Doping Charter was created. As a founding signatory of the International Anti-Doping Memorandum, we are proud of our collaboration with France, Norway, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia. Our domestic doping-control programme conducts over 2,500 tests annually; 75 per cent of these are random and unannounced.

(Spoke in French)

Canada takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Guy Drut, France's Minister for Youth and Sport, on his statement today, particularly with regard to anti-doping. As a past Olympic champion, Mr. Drut is clearly in a most distinguished position to argue both in France and at this forum in favour of fair, equitable and ethical sport. Canada supports the French message concerning international standardization and harmonization in regard to anti-doping. We must all, in particular the large countries that have sufficient resources to do so, support the efforts of our National Olympic Committees to introduce strict anti-doping measures, including unannounced testing, within their respective domestic sporting federations.

Canada also hopes that other United Nations Member States will reinforce their mutual cooperation in combating doping at the international level.

(Spoke in English):

By including in the General Assembly's agenda discussion by the Assembly on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal", we confirm that all countries have a great capacity for mobilizing collective efforts in sport to advance the harmonious development of humankind.

The international Olympic Movement has an enormous capacity to contribute to the quality of human life throughout the world. Canada is committed to working with the International Olympic Committee and its programmes to advance the values inherent in Olympism.

The Acting President *(interpretation from Spanish):*
I now call on the representative of Greece, Mr. Vassilis Kaskarelis.

Mr. Kaskarelis (Greece): Allow me first on behalf of my Government to express our deepest condolences and profound sympathy to the family, and to the Government and the people of Israel on the tragic loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, an eminent statesman and leader dedicated to peace and reconciliation.

I welcome with great pleasure the Assembly's discussion of the draft resolution before us at a time when the United Nations is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, and honour once more the Olympic Ideals of peace, brotherhood and unity among peoples. In a troubled era in which disputes, conflicts, inequalities, tensions and environmental crises wreak havoc on the quality of life, we meet today to discuss athletics and the Olympic Ideal. By so doing, and by adopting the draft resolution before us, we shall send the message that there is still an eagerness for communication and dialogue.

The Olympic Ideal has been living in the hearts of the Greek people for more than 30 centuries. That is not to say that through our long history we have not been subjected to the vicissitudes of mankind: we have experienced untold discord, conflict and disunity. Nevertheless, however remote the goal of building a world based on the rule of law, justice and peace may be, the continuity of the Olympic Ideal has always

provided us with a source of inspiration and hope, for the present as well as for the future.

Since its birth in 776 B.C., the Olympic Ideal has been a token of man's noble struggle to exceed his limits. In its framework, competition stands for virtuous antagonism. It expresses the desire to compete by peaceful means, to aim at peaceful targets, and to attain victory through individual effort and the exercise of the body and the mind. It is never a means to exterminate an enemy. It contributes to the enhancement of our overall potentialities.

The draft resolution's call for world peace during the Winter and the Summer Olympic Games has its roots in the concept of *ekecheria* — the Olympic Truce established by our ancestors. Even though it constitutes only a small step towards world peace, we should not forget that a long path is indeed made of small steps.

The Olympic Games in ancient Greece were convened for the day of the first full moon after the summer solstice, which today coincides with mid-July. This period of time was called *ierominia* — holy month. On the eve of the *ierominia*, special envoys travelled throughout Greece carrying the message of peace and the Olympic Truce. Peace was recognized as a fundamental prerequisite for the Games. For 40 days before and after the Games, all hostilities ceased and all persecution of individuals was prohibited.

Alexander the Great often stressed that the city of Olympia should be regarded as the capital of all Greeks. He spread not only the Greek spirit, but also the athletic ideal. He built athletic stadiums and organized athletic games. He encouraged everyone to share the virtues of the perfection of the body, the nobility of the spirit and the kindness of the soul, as well as the values of noble emulation, freedom and individual distinction emanating from honest victory.

In the year 393, Byzantine Emperor Theodosius I put an end to the Olympic Games because he regarded them as an expression of paganism. Many efforts were subsequently made for the revival of the Olympic Games, which finally led to the first modern Games held in the Kalimarmaro Stadium of Athens in 1896. These Games were the result of the joint efforts of the Frenchman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin and the Greek, Demetrios Vikelas, who became the first President of the International Olympic Committee.

It is a fact that the athletic movement has over the years gone through many phases and crises. It is also true that athletics is the expression of a powerful and universal reality which brings a major influence to bear on the wider social environment as a means of education in the framework of school athletics, as a means of health and recreation for all sexes and ages in the framework of mass participation in sports, and as a means of communication, brotherhood, solidarity and peace in the framework of competitive sports.

This three-dimensional social role of athletics has contributed to its development as a lasting cultural value. However, the world athletic movement is today suffering a dangerously deepening multifaceted crisis. It is an ideological crisis, because the philosophical nucleus of the ancient Greek spirit is being superseded by extreme commercialization, which contributes to turning fans into hooligans, athletes into ruthless professionals and sporting clubs into trading companies. It is an operational crisis, since athletic records do not reflect the noble endeavour to extend the boundaries of the body and the mind, but political, business and, occasionally, racial objectives. Finally, it is an organizational crisis, since we seem unable to confront the plagues of violence and the abuse of prohibited substances.

On the other hand, the urge for physical exercise plays an ever-increasing role in our everyday life. The transformation of our lifestyle and the urbanization of our societies, in conjunction with the anguish and stress of our technological age, highlight the need to develop a powerful athletics movement, in which the largest possible number of people will be able to actively participate. We have the binding obligation to reconsider the way in which the heritage of the Olympic Movement and of ancient Olympia is being put to use around the world, for we seem to have forgotten the sacred ideals, limiting ourselves to judging everything and everyone according to cheap materialistic criteria.

The Greek people wholeheartedly wish the city of Atlanta success in hosting the Olympic Games next summer. But we also hope that the world in general, and the International Olympic Committee in particular will acknowledge the moral debt they owe to Greece and to the Olympic Ideal, and give my country the honour of hosting the Games. It is indeed inconceivable that no

Olympic Games should have been held, during the twentieth century, in the country where they were born and which has served as a major source of inspiration to the history of the modern Olympics.

Greece stands ready to host the Olympic Games at the turn of the century, and to invite world youth to take part in Games of friendship, civilization and peace, so as to inaugurate a new phase of the revitalization of the Olympic Ideal.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call next on His Excellency Mr. Hans Peter Manz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations.

Mr. Manz (Austria): Before addressing the item we are debating today, I should like to convey, on behalf of my delegation, our heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Israel. The loss of Prime Minister Rabin to a senseless act of murder has shocked and saddened the people of Austria. We share the grief of his family and all of Israel.

As we commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, we should also reflect on how closely related the underlying ideas of its foundation are to a much older concept: that of the Olympic Games. As naive as it may appear at times, the notion of competing peacefully in sports rather than challenging each other's strength by engaging in warfare has certainly lost none of its relevance and appeal. Its link to the United Nations is obvious, and to underline its importance in this forum seems only appropriate.

Today, as in ancient Greece, the Olympic Games contribute to international understanding and mutual respect. Rivalry and aggression appear to be inherent human features with a potential for devastating effect. Engaging in sports allows us to channel those forces in a constructive way and is therefore a powerful manifestation of competitive yet harmonious human interaction. Austria is proud to have hosted the Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1964 and 1976.

However, sports are not only a peaceful way to enter into competition with other individuals. There is another aspect to any sports activity: the effect of sports on the individual itself. It is a way to develop physical and mental skills, which in turn foster people's health and self-esteem. Both factors are crucial to an individual's well-being and therefore to society's as well.

In this context, I should like to stress particularly the Special Olympics and their invaluable function for the disabled. Individuals who often find themselves marginalized and even humiliated by society are given the chance by way of sports to be at the centre of attention, to feel large-scale support and to become heroes. The self-esteem acquired by those preparing for and participating in the Special Olympics is a rare but lasting experience for all directly or indirectly involved. Austria, as a former host country of the Special Olympics, will continue to promote this specific concept as a particularly important strategy for the full integration of the disabled into society.

The contribution of sports to people's health and self-esteem is also of eminent importance in the context of the international fight against drug abuse. The involvement of young people in sports becomes most relevant in this context. We therefore welcome the mutually beneficial cooperation agreements between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as well as other relevant bodies. The Vienna-based Drug Control Programme is very active in providing training courses, creating manuals and offering technical assistance in this field, all of which, we believe, are viable factors in helping youth to withstand the deceptive attraction of drugs and which we therefore strongly support.

Austria also welcomes the many activities of non-governmental organizations in sports all over the world that aim at enhancing a society free of drug abuse. We thus encourage the IOC, in collaboration with local and national committees, to help promote the importance of a drug-free society at the forthcoming Games in Atlanta.

The eve of the centenary of the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens presents an excellent opportunity to remember the ancient Greek tradition of the Olympic Truce. May this spirit be reflected in the forthcoming Olympic Games. May the Olympic Games of the future be an example of harmonious competition between individuals and nations and a rallying point for the promotion of peace in the world.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call next on the representative of Colombia, Mr. Luis Alfonso Muñoz Aguirre, Director-General of ColDeportes.

Mr. Muñoz Aguirre (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Peace and development are permanent

themes in the daily life of the United Nations. As the world Organization celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, there can be no better time to reaffirm the notion that the Olympic Ideal consists of promoting international understanding through sport and culture, in particular among young people everywhere, in order to promote the harmonious development of mankind.

The joint endeavours of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), such as recent meetings on "Sport against drugs", "Sport and the environment" and "Sport for all and health for all", are among the reasons we support and invite other States to support draft resolution A/50/L.15 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

Sport, recreation and the proper and beneficial use of leisure time are a right which my Government is committed to guaranteeing to all Colombians. The entry into force of the national sports law, recently endorsed by President Samper, will allow us firmly and decisively to take the great plunge into sports to which our Government is committed. The current sport and recreation policy is aimed at fostering the integration of the population, promoting the participation of the student population at all levels, firmly supporting physical education and encouraging formal sports and the follow-up to sports-training schools.

This law will help us to modernize and update sports structures and to create processes for extending sports, recreation and physical education to all municipalities of the country. It will also strengthen sports participation in the educational sector as part of the comprehensive development of young people. It stresses sports and recreational programmes for ethnic groups, in particular indigenous groups, and for the disabled population. This will allow for citizen participation and linkages in the socialization process. Monitoring and supervisory mechanisms to be established to avoid violence and drug use in sports are pillars of our national policy; that is why we are working intensively on this subject.

We believe that it is essential to control doping. Colombia will therefore soon establish a monitoring laboratory which will allow us to take concrete measures against activities that are antithetical to sports. That is why we recently sponsored an international meeting on this subject. We recently asked the European Union to allow us to sign on to the anti-doping agreement that the European countries have already adopted. We are a State member of the Ibero-American Sports Council, an organization of 25

States created to establish mechanisms of cooperation, strengthen relationships and exchange ideas on improving development.

Colombia recently became Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. Activities taken in the context of our national policy should therefore have the coherence and dynamism to allow us to share our experience with the developing world. Now is the time to ask the developed countries to encourage specific programmes that will allow the developing world to integrate itself and to contribute through sports to the peace and development of the international community.

I should also like to emphasize the effort now being made by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in favour of sport as part of the total education of the person. I also congratulate the International Olympic Committee and its President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, on the important task it is carrying out, a task that we shall continue to support.

Colombia is enthusiastic and resolute in its support for the draft resolution and undertakes to apply it because we are aware that sport and culture are excellent tools for bringing about peace and coexistence between peoples and for improving conditions for continuing on the path of development in equality and justice.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Miss Patricia Durrant.

Miss Durrant (Jamaica): Allow me, Sir, on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, to express our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government and people of Israel on the tragic loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to an assassin's bullet. Prime Minister Rabin's courage, his commitment to peace in the Middle East and his indefatigable and fearless pursuit of normal relations between the peoples of the region have been an inspiration to us all.

I wish also to express our sincere sympathy with the Government and people of the Philippines at the tragic loss of life and destruction occasioned by Typhoon Angela. As someone from a part of the world that only a few weeks ago experienced the fury of several hurricanes, we feel with those who have lost loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods in this disaster.

On the eve of the centenary of the Olympic Games, which were revived in 1896, it is fitting that the United Nations should devote special attention to the goal of the item before us, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal". In keeping with this goal, the United Nations, through General Assembly resolution 48/11, revived the ancient Greek tradition of the Olympic Truce, which calls for all hostilities to cease during the Games. The very ancient nature of this tradition is a significant reminder that wars and hostilities are not new to this century; that from time immemorial countries have seen the value of sport as a catalyst for peace.

In the past few years, we have seen an increase in conflicts motivated by racism, xenophobia and general intolerance. This reality was brought home clearly to athletes participating in the last Winter Olympics, in Lillehammer, Norway, who recalled in sad irony and disbelief that in just a few years the beautiful city of Sarajevo, gracious host to the 1984 Winter Olympics, had been torn apart by conflict and hatred of a shocking intensity. The conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia has become a symbol of similar ethnic conflicts in other parts of the world, and has focused attention on the need for greater efforts to be made in favour of peace.

The Olympic Games, the Olympic Movement, the whole spirit of the Olympic Ideal are meant to promote friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between the peoples of the world and, by extension, between the nations. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali summed up this theme quite eloquently when he stated that

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition with respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school for democracy. ... there is a natural link between the ethic of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations".

For all these reasons, the Government of Jamaica supports the call for the reaffirmation of the Olympic Truce during the Centennial Games in Atlanta in July 1996. We also support the reaffirmation of the Truce prior to each Summer and each Winter Olympic Games.

The Olympic Ideal places particular emphasis on mobilizing the world's youth in the promotion of sport as a vehicle for peace and understanding. This emphasis on youth fits very well with the United Nations observance this year of the tenth anniversary of International Youth

Year, which the General Assembly commemorated just two weeks ago. At that time, my delegation stressed the importance of youth to the development of our country and of the world, and outlined some of the measures being put in place to ensure the improved development of Jamaica's young people.

Jamaica has had a rich tradition of excellence in the field of international sports since the 1940s, when our great track and field athletes captured the imagination of the world at the Olympic Games even at that difficult time, just after the Second World War. This tradition continues today.

Many of our athletes come from very humble backgrounds. It is in this humble environment that they first learn the lessons of discipline, fair play and teamwork, by participating in sports and other cultural activities. It is one of the greatest miracles — even to Jamaicans — that, even without financial resources, proper equipment and formal training, many of our young people have risen to become world-class athletes. Some have used their talents to assist with their educations, and all have recognized the value of sports — particularly community sports — to their stability and to the stability of their communities and of the world.

In many communities in Jamaica, people set about creating their own facilities and sports teams, and organizing tournaments, fully understanding the power of sports to calm tempers and counter juvenile delinquency. In its national youth policy, the Government of Jamaica has taken decisive steps to recognize the link between sports and cultural activities and the growth and development of our young people.

Youth organizations are encouraged to play a key role in designing programmes to facilitate the integration of youth into the community and to develop healthy lifestyles, which are the best protection against drug abuse. These programmes include participation in team sports. In addition, through its national sports policy, the Government of Jamaica emphasizes the provision of competition-level and community playing fields and facilities; assistance to increase significantly the level of participation in selected sports in schools and at the community level; and the encouragement of greater private-sector sponsorship of competition-level sports and in assisting national representation at international events.

These steps are in line with the continued work of the International Olympic Committee in collaboration

with organizations of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

The International Conference on Sport against Drugs, held in Rome earlier this year and organized by the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and the use of famous personalities as goodwill ambassadors are an excellent example of the use of sports to drive home the anti-drug message to young people.

We should also like to commend the work of the International Olympic Committee in its increased surveillance of doping in sport. Jamaican sporting authorities are adamantly against the use of medicaments to enhance athletic performance. Not only is this a dangerous and unhealthy practice for our athletes; it is also grossly unfair to other competitors.

We urge all athletes, as well as their coaches and doctors, not to succumb to the temptation of taking performance-enhancing drugs. It is not worth the risk, and robs the person of his or her dignity as a fair competitor in the spirit of the Olympics. More important, such habits developed in play are carried over into work, as young athletes continue to cheat in their academic and business activities.

Sport prepares young people for life. This, after all, is the whole point of the Olympic Ideal and of the exercises we are now conducting in our observance of that Ideal. Those in charge of young athletes need to remember that the method by which those athletes are trained reveals the character of the trainer and how the trainer conducts his or her affairs in all aspects of life. There are those who would scorn the attempts of the international community to spread the spirit of Olympism in trying to achieve peace in the world. My delegation is fully aware that the reasons for war are complex and that peace does not therefore come easily. But there are many avenues for approaching peace. The Olympic Games provide a medium for international communication like few other events. Indeed, there are expected to be some 190 countries present at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

We would urge any sceptics to bear these considerations in mind and to join in the promotion of the

Olympic spirit, to the best of their ability. We urge the international community not to give up hope that lasting peace can be achieved in the world. We have in our lifetime witnessed the dismantling of the system of apartheid, against which so many of us sportsmen and sportswomen fought valiantly. At the last Winter Olympics, in Lillehammer, a team from a tiny tropical island which has experienced neither snow nor ice entered the bobsled competition and finished ahead of many veterans of that sport. They were an inspiration to many people worldwide.

We are very pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution before us and call upon all members to support it.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I call on the representative of Iraq, Mr. Maki Khamas, Member of the National Olympic Committee of Iraq.

Mr. Khamas (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I have the honour to represent the Iraqi National Olympic Committee in this international forum dedicated to the exchange of views and the search for the means whereby a peaceful world may be established through sport.

I should like first to extend sincere thanks to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which took the initiative of requesting the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1993, and has thus afforded us the opportunity to search for means to promote the Olympic Movement and thus to make it possible for the United Nations to explore new concepts and additional approaches in the service of peace and stability in the world.

The Olympic Movement, through its activities and programmes, has played an important role in the search for world peace. It is appropriate to consolidate the relationship between the Olympic Movement and the United Nations in the service of the common, fundamental objectives of the Charters of the United Nations and the Olympic Movement. This could be achieved through teaching the world's youth the virtues of peace, and the elaboration of a cooperative plan to promote sports relations amongst nations on the basis of fair competition and mutual respect, instead of confrontation and domination.

The United Nations has set for itself a number of ambitious objectives for the establishment of peace and ensuring equality for all nations in the enjoyment of the

fundamental human rights, which include the rights to education for all, to health for all and to housing for all. The promotion and development of physical education and sports for all are vital prerequisites for the attainment of these objectives. Therefore, it is necessary for the United Nations to promote international cooperation in the field of sports and physical education, and to immunize it against the negative political effects generated through the pursuance of self-interest by certain international quarters.

In this regard, mention should be made of the coercive measures imposed by the Security Council against Iraq, which have run counter to and worked against the attainment of these objectives. For five years now, my country has been subjected to a comprehensive embargo which has impacted negatively on all aspects of life, including sports. It has become extremely difficult for Iraqi athletes to obtain sports equipment, uniforms, balls, nets, training equipment, or equipment for sports medicine. The embargo has also prevented many Iraqi teams from participation in various sports activities abroad, such as games, conferences, and training camps, due to the scarcity of resources.

The embargo and the lack of adequate nutrition have deprived athletes of the necessary means to realize their full athletic potentials. As a result, the number of sports teams have declined, many sports clubs have been closed and many sports tournaments, individual and collective, have been cancelled. That has led to an extremely serious deterioration in sports activities in schools and universities. Furthermore, the Olympic Council for Asia, for narrow political reasons, suspended the membership of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee in 1990. Iraq's membership in that Council remains suspended without any justification, in contradiction to the fundamental values and principles of the Olympic Movement.

These negative consequences of the embargo on sports and on every other aspect of life in Iraq place a legal responsibility on the United Nations as well as a moral responsibility on the International Olympic Committee and make it incumbent on both the Organization and the Committee to work for putting an end to this unjustified tragedy.

The manifestations we have just mentioned, as well as many others, require us all to work closely together for the attainment of the common objectives of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee which aim at creating a world of peace and prosperity, free of the narrow political interests of this or that party, a world in

which sport is not used as a political tool of policies dictated by the narrow interests of certain international quarters.

We should like to take this opportunity to commend the Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch for his tireless efforts to keep sports independent of the policies of vested interests. From this rostrum we call upon all nations — large and small, strong and weak, rich and poor — to promote dialogue and to build bridges of hope and understanding between them all through sports and through observance of the humanitarian Olympic values of mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity, justice and equality, which eschew all forms of discrimination, domination and coercion.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Japan, Mr. Shunji Maruyama.

Mr. Maruyama (Japan): The Government and people of Japan are profoundly saddened by the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. It is Japan's earnest hope that the people of Israel will not allow this tragedy to discourage them and that they will remain committed to the peace process and ensure that Prime Minister Rabin's desire for peace in the Middle East will be realized.

As the host country for the next Winter Olympic Games, which will take place in Nagano in 1998, Japan would like to express its great pleasure that the agenda item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal" is being considered at plenary meetings of the General Assembly in this the year of the Beijing Conference on Women and the Copenhagen Summit, which focused on people-centred development, and the year in which we observed the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year. In addition, next year, in Atlanta, we shall celebrate the centenary of the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896. Clearly, it is a most opportune moment to acknowledge the importance of sport in general and of the Olympics in particular.

All round the world, sport plays a prominent role in the promotion of mutual understanding, friendship and good will, and it is conducted under universal rules. It has enormous importance for this reason, and we are pleased that the world's most important sports authority — the International Olympic Committee (IOC) — and the United Nations system are engaging in

joint endeavours in areas such as the prevention of drug abuse.

We also welcome the efforts of national Ministries of Youth and Sport to strengthen educational programmes for youth and to enhance the participation of women in all aspects of the sports movement. It is essential, in particular, that young people, who hold our future in their hands, join in efforts to build a more peaceful world. This, we believe, they can do by participating in sports and, more importantly, by living their lives in accordance with the principles that are at the heart of all sporting competition.

The world continues today to be racked by regional conflict, and ways must be found to address this challenge. The Olympic Truce is a very useful, if temporary, means of effecting peace, and we are pleased that it has been agreed that a Truce will be observed once again during the Nagano Olympic Games. Since the time of the ancient Greeks, the goal of the Olympic Games has been to build a peaceful and better world and to enhance respect for human dignity. That goal continues to deserve our full support.

By hosting the eighteenth Olympic Games, in Tokyo in 1964, and the eleventh Winter Games, in Sapporo in 1972, Japan has demonstrated how deeply it believes in the Olympic Ideal. As I mentioned at the outset, Japan is privileged to serve once again as host country — this time for the eighteenth Winter Games. The venue, Nagano, is situated at the foot of the Japanese Alps, in the heart of Japan — a place famous for its magnificent views and great natural beauty. Preparations are already under way, with extensive support from the Government of Japan, and every effort is being made to ensure that these Games will be the most smoothly run ever. We are convinced that the Nagano Games will inspire participants and observers alike to strive to realize the goals of the Olympics in their own lives and in the relations of their countries.

We have established three guidelines for the organization of the Games in Nagano. First, as these will be the last Olympic Games to be held this century, they should be not only a series of world-championship events but also an opportunity for youth and children — the men and women of the early part of the next century — to appear on the world stage. Secondly, as the Winter Games are ice-and-snow events, we should try to feature the abundant natural resources that Nagano has to offer. Thirdly, we are determined to organize this historic event in such a way as to ensure that it is a means of enabling

everyone, individually and collectively, to make a contribution to peace, harmony and friendship. Japan will be honoured to welcome athletes and visitors alike to the Nagano Games.

Japan wishes to express its deep respect for the work of the International Olympic Committee, and we welcome Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, to the General Assembly's deliberations. Throughout its 100-year history, the IOC has contributed to the promotion of friendship and peace through sports, and the international community owes it a debt of gratitude.

I should like to conclude my statement by quoting the remarks of the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros-Ghali, that were incorporated in the report of the International Olympic Committee on the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal last year:

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition with respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school for democracy. In other words, there is a natural link between the ethic of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations."

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Guyana, Mrs. Paulette Cornette.

Mrs. Cornette (Guyana): I should like, first, to take this opportunity to extend the condolences of the Government and people of Guyana to the Government and people of Israel and to the bereaved widow and other relatives of the late Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated last Saturday. It is our hope that Mr. Rabin will not have died in vain and that the peace process, which he had brought so far, will continue to progress, leading to lasting peace in that region.

In less than one year from now, in July 1996 in Atlanta, we will celebrate the centennial Olympic Games of the modern era. During that period over 200 nations of the world will field athletes who will be participating in every conceivable area of sporting activity. The important contribution which sports and culture offer to the participants, the majority of whom are youths, by way of healthy competition of body and mind can never be overemphasized.

We are equally well aware of the apparent ease with which athletes at national and international levels are able to interact, in defiance of all other obstacles, such as language, race and religion. We are reminded that in keeping with Olympic tradition, we will be making a great effort to observe during the Games an Olympic Truce in the cause of peace. This initiative, which revives an ancient Greek tradition, is all the more valuable because it is completely in keeping with the principles of the United Nations Charter and promotes a spirit of fraternity and understanding between peoples.

As we in this Assembly are only too well aware, global peace and security continue to elude our grasp. The period of intense super-Power rivalry is thankfully now behind us, and the world has retreated from the threat of nuclear annihilation. We are now confronted, however, by numerous localized wars that resist all attempts at resolution. Witness the many factional conflicts that are currently in progress in Europe, Africa and other areas of the world.

Commendably, the United Nations and particularly the Security Council strive to bring peace and stability to these troubled places. We are forced to recognize, however, that the Organization's success to date has been severely circumscribed. While we are encouraged by new breakthroughs in the various diplomatic and negotiating processes, we cannot escape the conclusion that new concepts and fresh approaches are needed to deal with the persistence and proliferation of conflict.

By extending the principle of the *ekecheria*, or Olympic Truce, we can at least pray for some respite, however temporary, from the killings and destruction which accompany conflict. The Truce, as we know it, would normally last for the period of the sporting event. During that time national rivalries, jealousies and considerations of politics, race, religion, wealth and social status were cast aside. Kings competed with commoners for the honour of winning the simple branch of wild olive which was given to each victor and which over the years has come to symbolize peace.

With political commitment, however, the Olympic Truce, which was considered sacred by all participants, can be prolonged indefinitely. We therefore call upon people of goodwill everywhere to place at the forefront of their thoughts and action the principles that *ekecheria* and the Olympic Ideal seek to propagate.

Of those currently engaged in conflict we ask that, despite the urgencies and validity of the causes for which they struggle, they show some regard for these higher principles that have been endorsed by the United Nations.

The fundamental principles of the Olympic Movement embrace the values and ideals of this Organization. It is therefore possible for it to collaborate with us in the campaign to achieve world peace. The movement has made a valuable contribution towards building a better world through sport. The United Nations, for its part, has taken a major step in furthering its own efforts to foster peace and development, by its full acceptance and endorsement of the concept of the Olympic Truce.

We are pleased to note the appreciable effort which the International Olympic Committee is making to provide humanitarian assistance to several war-torn areas. Such assistance enables the international community to make the best possible response to the growing number of situations which require its intervention. We wish to commend the Committee for its positive contribution and to invite its continued involvement in the work of our Organization. We have accordingly co-sponsored draft resolution A/50/L.15, which seeks to bring the International Olympic Committee into a closer relationship with the United Nations system.

The occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, which the General Assembly is observing this year, should see a concerted international effort to fulfil the principal aim of its Charter, namely to rid this and succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

As the Olympic torch moves from Barcelona to Atlanta, we must work to ensure that by the summer of 1996, when the International Olympic Committee observes its centennial, a permanent truce will be called to conflicts among and within nations. It will certainly be a worthy achievement if at the dawn of the twenty-first century mankind can enter a new age of universal peace and harmony.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*):
I now call on the representative of Cyprus, Mr. Demos Georgiades, President of the Cyprus Sport Organization.

Mr. Georgiades (Cyprus): In a world faced with unabated turmoil, the ancient Greek spirit that gave rise

to the Olympian ideal of athletic achievement and excellence transcends the cultural and political boundaries that divide human communities.

The Olympic Ideal continues to inspire us to this day. It shines like a beacon of hope, a guiding force underpinning the fundamental values of society: peace, freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It is a motivating element of human competitiveness without recourse to violent confrontation, an essential ingredient for the preservation of universal values.

Consideration of the present draft resolution by the General Assembly during this year's historic session is of particular significance. It attests to the importance attached by the United Nations to the Olympian values for their contribution towards the promotion of peace and the betterment of the world through sports. It is by instilling the Olympic Ideals in our youth that cultural and political discord can be overcome.

The Olympic Ideal serves to promote international understanding among the youth of the world. In that way, the necessary conditions for building harmony among nations are created. It is thus that the prevailing culture of conflict and misunderstanding can be mitigated.

The practice of sports offers a unique way to cultivate the body, the mind and the soul. It is an activity that people can engage in regardless of racial, cultural, political and other differences. The Olympic Ideal dissipates prejudice.

Nearly a century ago, Pierre de Coubertin was inspired by the same principles when he revived the Olympic Games in their land of origin — Greece. This is why it is only appropriate that the International Olympic Committee give serious consideration to the proposal of Greece to organize an Olympiad in the country that hosted the first modern Olympic Games, the country that gave birth to the original Olympic spirit.

Sports have always played a central role in the education system of Cyprus. Statistical data indicate that Cyprus compares favourably with those nations that are most active in the realm of sports.

My country, a land divided by foreign aggression and occupation, continues its struggle for peace and freedom. This struggle is motivated by the same spirit that guided the founders of the Olympic Games. It is a spirit driven by

the ideals of peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

We live in an era of uneasy transition, characterized by political and social upheaval. However, we must not allow our fears and concerns about the present to cloud our vision for the future. Our collective mission to promote the Olympic Ideal can only serve to fulfil the objectives of the draft resolution — that is, promoting and preserving international understanding and cooperation through the active participation of youth in sport.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Viet Nam, Mr. Le Buu, Director-General of the General Department of Sport and Physical Education of Viet Nam.

Mr. Le Buu (Viet Nam) (*spoke in Vietnamese; English text furnished by the delegation*): I feel most honoured to attend, on behalf of the Sport and Physical Education and Olympic Movement of Viet Nam, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the President of the International Olympic Committee, this debate on agenda item 40, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal", at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

Our people, living in a country that has undergone wars, strongly cherish a life of peace, independence and freedom, and have an age-old tradition of sport. It is in peace that Vietnamese sport has been integrated into the modern Olympic stream since the end of the 1970s.

The objective of Vietnamese sport is to build a movement of popular sport, physical education and good health for everyone, and to expand relations of cooperation, friendship and development with friends all over the world.

Unfortunately, suffering is still being experienced by many peoples. I would earnestly recommend to the sports and physical-education leaders of every country that they strive, as one of the important responsibilities within their competencies, to implement resolution 49/29, adopted at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the Olympic Ideal. It aims to create a world of peace and stability in which all peoples may enjoy their fundamental rights — for example, the right to live in peace and equality, the right to development and the right to enjoy

sporting exchanges and cooperation on sport between countries and peoples.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the International Olympic Committee, the Association of National Olympic Committees, the international sports federations and the sports and physical education organizations of various countries for extending to Viet Nam their valuable assistance.

Vietnamese sport commits itself to do its best to make a worthy contribution to the lofty cause of the Olympic

Ideal; it commits itself to building a world of sport for peace and development.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*):
We have heard the last speaker for today.

In order to hear the other speakers on the list and to take a decision on draft resolution A/50/L.15, the Assembly will continue consideration of agenda item 40, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal", tomorrow morning as the third item.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.



General Assembly

Fiftieth Session

52nd plenary meeting

 Tuesday, 7 November 1995, 10 a.m.
 New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 49

Report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the second annual report of the International Tribunal (A/50/365)

The President: May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the second annual report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991?

It was so decided.

The President: I call on Mr. Antonio Cassese, President of the International Tribunal.

Mr. Cassese (President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991): Since I last had the honour of addressing the General Assembly, in November 1994, there have been numerous positive developments in the work of the

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Unhappily, there continue to exist major obstacles in the path of the Tribunal's success — obstacles which are only surmountable if the world community provides assistance.

The International Criminal Tribunal now has the capacity fully to operate as a judicial body. At present we are at last in a position to prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

We have come a long way in the two years since November 1993, when the Tribunal was established. At that time, the Tribunal consisted only of 11 judges and a Statute. It had no budget, no seat, no courtroom, no prison, no staff, no code of criminal procedure. Most debilitating of all, for the first nine months of its existence the Tribunal had no functioning Prosecutor. Since that time we have made great strides. As a result, we can now proudly state that everything is in place at the Tribunal. At long last we are engaged in the administration of justice.

In the two years since November 1993 we have gone from being a lofty — some might have said nebulous — idea to a living reality. The idea was that Member States could unite to ensure that vicious crimes against international humanitarian law would be punished. It was an idea which was met with scepticism, even with ridicule, by many who believed it to be unattainable. But



it has been attained, at least in part, by dint of patience and perseverance. We Judges felt strongly that it was our moral duty to do our utmost to make the Tribunal an effective judicial mechanism.

I shall briefly recall what I consider to be our major achievements so far: First, our Prosecutor has issued nine indictments against 43 individuals, charging them with serious violations of international humanitarian law. These indictments have all been confirmed by a reviewing Judge. Arrest warrants have been issued against all the accused. These accused include political and military leaders.

Secondly, a number of further investigations are under way in the Office of the Prosecutor with the result that more indictments are being issued almost every month.

Thirdly, in pre-trial hearings, significant issues have been raised and argued before a Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber. These issues are of crucial importance; for instance, some concern the international legitimacy and lawfulness of the Tribunal's establishment by the Security Council. Others relate to the Tribunal's subject-matter jurisdiction, that is to say, its power to prosecute certain crimes. Other issues concern the protection of witnesses. The relevant Trial Chamber and the Appeals Chamber have thus had the opportunity to pronounce upon these important matters, thereby breaking new ground in international criminal law.

Fourthly, the trial of an accused is set to start in a few months now that all the pre-trial motions have been heard. The delay in the commencement of the actual trial is due entirely to problems raised by the defence. Counsel for the defence has asked the Tribunal to give him the financial wherewithal necessary to prepare his case, as well as the time necessary to interview witnesses. It is his contention that, so far, he has been unable to contact witnesses for the defence both because they are in a war zone and because of the total — I repeat, total — non-cooperation of the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale. The Tribunal, of course, considers the rights of the defence and the principle of fair trial as sacrosanct. It therefore felt it was appropriate to grant this delay.

Fifthly, a hearing has been held under rule 61 of the Tribunal's rules of procedure and evidence. Rule 61 provides for a special procedure to which resort may be had when the accused is not brought to trial either because he evades arrest or because the authorities refuse to cooperate with our Tribunal. This special procedure, which is by no means a trial *in absentia*, is designed to avoid

giving the accused the power to thwart or obstruct international justice by simply failing to appear in court. Under this procedure witnesses can be called by the Prosecutor, and they may testify in public and have their testimony recorded for posterity. On the basis of their testimony, the Trial Chamber may conclude that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused has committed the crimes charged in the indictment, and may issue an international arrest warrant.

Last month the Tribunal applied rule 61 for the first time. Thirteen witnesses appeared in court to give testimony regarding the alleged atrocities at the hands of the accused. At the end of the proceedings, the Trial Chamber issued an international arrest warrant against the accused. Further, the Trial Chamber asked me, as the Tribunal's President, to advise the Security Council of the failure of the Bosnian Serb Administration in Pale to cooperate with the Tribunal. I did so on 30 October.

In sum, the Tribunal is boldly travelling towards the accomplishment of its mission. The path is not, however, without certain obstacles. I shall now outline three of them.

First, the decisions, orders and requests of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia can be enforced only by others, namely, national authorities. Unlike domestic criminal courts, the Tribunal has no enforcement agencies at its disposal. Without the intermediary of national authorities, it cannot execute arrest warrants, it cannot seize evidentiary material, it cannot compel witnesses to give testimony, it cannot search the scenes where crimes have been allegedly committed. For all these purposes, it must turn to State authorities and request them to take action. Our Tribunal is like a giant who has no arms and no legs. To walk and work, he needs artificial limbs. These artificial limbs are the State authorities. Without their help the Tribunal cannot operate.

Admittedly, this holds true for all international institutions, which need the support of States to be able to operate. However, our Tribunal needs the support of States more than any other international institution because its actions have a direct impact on individuals who live in the territory of sovereign States and are subject to their jurisdiction. The adoption by States of all the legislative, administrative and judicial measures necessary for the expeditious execution of the Tribunal's decisions is thus of crucial importance.

Unfortunately, despite a clear decision by the Security Council in resolution 827 (1993), at present only some 15 — I repeat: 15 — of the 185 States Members of the United Nations have enacted implementing legislation. A few other States have gone only so far as to indicate their intention to adopt such legislation in the near future.

This lack of cooperation proves particularly paralyzing for our Tribunal when it comes to the execution of arrest warrants. As I said, the Tribunal does not have an enforcement agency of any description at its disposal; we therefore need the assistance of States for the execution of arrest warrants issued by the Tribunal. Regrettably, two of the entities of the former Yugoslavia have so far refused to cooperate: I refer to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Bosnian Serb Administration in Pale. Their total lack of cooperation has greatly hampered the work of our Tribunal: 41 of the first 43 accused are in their territory, but they have failed to apprehend these suspects and surrender them to our Tribunal. Without having suspects physically in our presence, we cannot proceed to trial.

A second obstacle facing the Tribunal arises out of the fact that it is trying cases while an armed conflict is still under way and bloodshed and suffering are daily occurrences. This is in stark contrast to the usual situation of judicial institutions dealing with crimes committed in the course of hostilities. They step in only when the conflict has ceased, as at Nuremberg and Tokyo. In contrast to this, our Tribunal has been called upon to dispense justice while armed conflict continues and while the planners and perpetrators of crimes shelter under the protective umbrella of military or political power. Plainly, no suspects will be surrendered to the Tribunal by those authorities which have been criminally complicit in, or at least criminally negligent in not preventing or stopping, serious violations of international humanitarian law.

All of this greatly complicates the task of our Tribunal. For one thing, investigators — whether acting on behalf of the Prosecutor or of the Defence — may be prevented from collecting evidence or interviewing witnesses because of continuing armed clashes. For another, witnesses may, in the absence of a protective State apparatus, fear immediate reprisals against themselves or their relatives, and therefore may be reluctant to come forward to testify. Finally, the state of armed conflict may create in many citizens a mood of partisanship. War criminals may be hailed as heroes, and cooperation with the Tribunal may be viewed as traitorous.

A third concern is the difficulty the Tribunal has faced — and continues to face — in obtaining the financial and practical resources necessary to carry out its work. The budget for the 1994-1995 biennium was approved only in July 1995. Two short months later, the financial crisis in the United Nations created new problems. These kinds of financial limitations strike at the very heart of our Tribunal, for two main reasons.

First, the Tribunal is a new and innovative institution which is in the early stages of its growth, and we are undertaking activities which have never before been carried out by the United Nations. We urgently need to recruit a full complement of staff, we need to provide them with adequate tools to work, and we need to have adequate funds available to cover the initial expenses of setting up the Tribunal's working environment.

There is a second reason why the budget restrictions have made our lives particularly difficult in the Tribunal. The need to investigate crimes which are being committed half a continent away, and in a constantly changing environment, calls for immediate and responsive action by our investigators. They must move while the events are fresh. When mass graves are suddenly available for inspection, we should not be agonizing over whether the funding for travel is available.

All these undertakings are costly — of that there is no doubt; but if the United Nations wants to hear the voice of justice speak loudly and clearly, then the Member States must be willing to pay the price.

One step in the right direction was the recent decision by the Secretary-General to give to all the relevant departments direct responsibility for implementing the cost-saving measures which have been put into effect. This is indeed welcome news to our Tribunal. At least the responsibility is now in our own hands to set priorities and spending goals. But this is not enough. We urge the Assembly to help us fulfil our mission by providing the badly needed resources.

For us to overcome the hurdles I have outlined so far, the increasing support of Members of the General Assembly is vital. In this connection, I am happy to report that so far a number of States have substantially assisted our Tribunal politically, morally and financially. In particular, the host country, the Netherlands, is providing unreserved and continuing assistance, for which we are deeply grateful. The European Union should also

be highly commended for its invaluable support in many areas; without this support our task would have been even more daunting.

We are aware at The Hague that the world is watching our every move very closely and with mixed feelings: generous expectations but also profound scepticism. We cannot afford not to fulfil these expectations; we must dispel this scepticism. The failure of our Tribunal would mean the failure of the Rwanda Tribunal as well, and the very idea of a permanent international criminal court could be set back for decades. Even more important, the Tribunal's failure would mean leaving unfulfilled the hopes and demands of so many victims in the former Yugoslavia who are insistently calling for justice.

It has been said that the two dominant feelings in our age are fear and indifference. The Tribunal is a symbol to show that the United Nations cannot be accused of indifference *vis-à-vis* the fear and suffering prevailing in the former Yugoslavia. Hence, to allow our Tribunal to fade away or eventually succumb to the obstacles I mentioned earlier would ultimately mean that the world community was impotent in the face of terrible human tragedies such as that currently unfolding in the former Yugoslavia.

Let me briefly tackle another topical matter, namely the possible impact on our Tribunal of successful peace negotiations. At present there appears to be a real prospect for a lasting peace in the region. Should that day arrive, is the Tribunal to become useless? The answer must be a clear "No". If anything, the importance of the Tribunal will be even greater. If there is to be a lasting peace, it must be accompanied by a sense of justice in the minds of all the citizens of, and in particular the victims of atrocities in, the former Yugoslavia. If at the end of a war torturers and their victims are treated alike, the war's legacy of hatred, resentment and acrimony will not have been snuffed out; rather, it will continue to smoulder. The existence of peace in such a climate would be precarious indeed. If, however, the Tribunal, as an impartial body, continues its work of bringing to justice at least some of the most egregious offenders, those who have suffered through four years of hellish war will be better able to find the forgiveness required for peace to last.

Indeed, with peace the Tribunal will become more efficient and better able to accomplish its mission. With peace, States will no longer be in a position to eschew cooperation with the Tribunal; they will have to comply

with the Tribunal's requests to surrender suspects. Similarly, those States in the region which have so far evinced little interest in helping the Tribunal will now have a real stake in cooperating, in order to ensure their good standing at the United Nations.

Let me conclude by stressing once again that, despite the myriad difficulties encountered over the past year, the Judges at The Hague, indeed all those working for the Tribunal, have not been discouraged. Rather, they have worked unsparingly, bearing in mind the forceful words uttered 50 years ago this month, on 21 November 1945, by the United States Chief Prosecutor, Justice Jackson, in Nuremberg, with respect to the trial that was opening there. He said:

"This trial represents mankind's desperate effort to apply the discipline of the law to statesmen who have used their powers of State to attack the foundations of the world's peace".

The Judges at The Hague feel that these words should hold true for the Tribunal as well. They too are making a "desperate effort" to pursue the goal of applying the discipline of international humanitarian law to those who have planned, directed or perpetrated horrific crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

I very much hope, now that the Tribunal has moved on to the second, operational stage of its development, that it will be able to bring to fruition its immense potential and thus show that international criminal justice can fulfil an indispensable role in the pacification of the world community.

Mr. Biegan (Netherlands): I am speaking as a representative of a country that has wholeheartedly supported the decision of the Security Council to establish an ad hoc tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. I am also the representative of the country where the seat of that Tribunal has been established.

Why did the Netherlands Government support that decision of the Security Council and why did my Government welcome the Tribunal to The Hague? Because, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom said in his statement at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, it is of the utmost importance not only that the terrible crimes committed in the

territory of the former Yugoslavia be condemned by the international community, but also that those responsible for those crimes, as well as the actual perpetrators, be prosecuted — as a matter of justice, and also as a matter of deterrence.

Impunity encourages future crimes against humanity. Impunity often follows from the unwillingness or inability of the State whose duty it would be to prosecute to do so. The Netherlands Government therefore sees the decision of the Security Council to establish the Tribunal, an impartial court that can take on that task and thereby try to put an end to impunity, as a necessary complement to the existing judicial system and as a milestone in the history of international criminal jurisdiction. For the first time since Nuremberg and Tokyo, the international community is holding individuals responsible for their actions during wartime and in situations of war. In the miserable history of the former Yugoslavia, this is one of the very few positive outcomes so far.

The President of the Tribunal, in his second report, rightly states that the Tribunal has started to meet the hopes and expectations of the victims in the former Yugoslavia and that the preparatory work has been completed and trial activity has begun, bringing the Tribunal closer to realizing its principal objectives as laid down in Security Council resolution 808 (1993).

The Netherlands Government would consider it a serious setback if this process were, for whatever reason, slowed down or jeopardized. It would be sad indeed if the Tribunal, for political or financial reasons, or through lack of cooperation, could not fulfil its task of applying the basic principles of humanitarian law. Such a situation would, moreover, have serious repercussions for the development of international law, for the authority of the Security Council, for the credibility of the quest for justice by the international community and for the efforts currently being undertaken to create a permanent international criminal court — a court which, in the opinion of our Government, should be the ultimate goal.

The Netherlands has always wholeheartedly supported the work of the Yugoslavia Tribunal. Its Government played an active role in the identification and acquisition of suitable premises for the Tribunal. It took care of converting an office building into an appropriate court building, and it put this at the disposal of the Tribunal, free of rent for the first year. The Netherlands Government also assumed the task of protecting those premises, as well as the Tribunal's personnel.

Netherlands experts support the investigation procedures free of charge, and recently the Government made \$2 million available to the Tribunal to clear a backlog of documents and information material, which threatened to choke the administration of the Tribunal and, thereby, the progress of its work.

It will thus be clear that the proper functioning of the Tribunal is a matter on which the Netherlands bestows great care, because so much depends on it.

If the Tribunal is to be effective, it will need sufficient financial resources, as well as the cooperation of all States through the provision of all available information and the extradition of indicted suspects.

The Tribunal has made a good and solid start. It has begun its first proceedings — against Mr. Tadić. It declared itself competent to try this case, but deferred the actual trial, to allow the defence more time for proper preparation of its case. The Prosecutor is preparing indictments against other suspects, building on the experience gathered in the Tadić case. Formal investigations against Mr. Karadzic, General Mladic and others have started.

The Netherlands Government firmly believes that the Tribunal will be a success. With time, this success will make potential war criminals think twice before engaging in violations of humanitarian law. Just as important, it may break the cycle of revenge between peoples by putting the blame on individuals who were the main instigators and executors, and may thus provide a basis for lasting peace.

For these reasons, the Tribunal, in our opinion, deserves the unreserved support of the international community.

Mr. Kocetkov (Bosnia and Herzegovina): The authorities and the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the democratic public in the world, accepted and hailed the decision to establish the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, as an expression of the international community's determination to bring before the court of justice all those who took part in the preparation or execution of the policy of genocide and aggression against the sovereign countries and peoples in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Those responsible for implementing the policies of nationalism and chauvinism must be held accountable and answerable for crimes not seen in Europe since the end of the Second World War. At the same time, they must cease engaging in pogroms, rapes, massacres, forced movements of civilian populations and the extinction of whole peoples. The issue here is that of the most serious violations of human rights — rights established in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva and numerous other international Conventions.

The Tribunal's function is not just to give satisfaction to the victims of the crimes; it is also to deter potential future criminals. More than 200,000 people — most of them innocent civilians: women and children, and predominantly Bosniak Muslims — have been killed in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina alone. Thousands of people, mostly draft-age men and young boys, have disappeared. About 2 million people — almost half the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina — have been expelled from their homes. Thousands of women have been systematically raped, with the most monstrous of motives.

These are all components of a strategy and of tactics aimed at achieving goals of national Fascist policy and aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Besides, the aggressor, as well as terrorist gangs formed and supported by the aggressor, has systematically destroyed an entire non-Serbian heritage of history and civilization. Mosques and churches have been levelled, and Muslim cemeteries have been ploughed.

Right up to the present, what we have witnessed being carried out is a policy of destroying the signs of every civilization that does not accord with the aggressors' national or religious characteristics, in the territories they are temporarily occupying. These territories are temporarily occupied by paramilitary forces under the Pale national Fascist leadership of Karadzic and Mladic, both of whom, as the most prominent war criminals, have been indicted by the International Tribunal. Both are indeed war criminals, and their names must not be forgotten.

We consider that the work of the Prosecutor has been effective so far, and we expect the work of the Trial Chambers, too, to be effective.

The tragedy of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Rwanda has been referred to frequently during debates in this General Assembly session, in the context of

the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations — and rightly so.

Many of these facts are well known, but, in the name of truth and justice, what has happened should be made obvious to everyone. In this respect, we support and welcome the International Tribunal's report. We welcome with great pleasure the comment, in the report, that the International Tribunal

"is now substantially closer to realizing its principal objectives as laid down in Security Council resolutions 808 (1993) and 827 (1993)." (*A/50/365, para. 1*)

The issue here is not revenge. The issue here is justice — justice in respect of all crimes committed; justice for the hundreds of thousands of people who have been subjected to unprecedented suffering; justice for the murdered and maimed children; justice for the thousands of raped women; justice for the destroyed cities and villages; justice for the separated families; justice for the people in besieged cities who have daily suffered torture for more than three years, being subjected to shelling and sniping, being deliberately and permanently deprived of electricity, water, medicine, food and the right to move about, and being prevented from undertaking the necessary medical evacuation of the sick and wounded.

These are the cases of Sarajevo, Gorazde, Bihac, Tuzla, Srebrenica, Zepa — cities which have been designated "safe areas" by the United Nations. There are also many other cities and villages in this situation. The suffering of those people must not be forgotten — for the sake of our children, for the sake of the future generations that should be able to live in peace and freedom and enjoy the basic human rights and freedoms to which the United Nations is solemnly committed.

Those are all reasons to request from everyone here, and in good faith to expect, as has so far been the case, full support for the International Tribunal. With this in mind, we point out that it is necessary to ensure the full support of all United Nations Member States for the work of the International Tribunal. This, above all, presumes, in accordance with the provisions of the statute of the Tribunal, the handing over of all of those persons indicted by the Tribunal for crimes committed. This also presumes all the other support necessary for the Tribunal to carry out its functions effectively — including financial, technical and procedural support, as well as an

increased number of judges, that is, an increased number of Trial Chambers.

The experience of the Tribunal's work and the concrete results of that experience are of crucial importance for deciding on the establishment of an international criminal court, which we support.

Giving full credit, full confidence and support to the Prosecutor, the Honourable Justice Goldstone, for his present work and everything he has done so far, we also request and expect that all criminals be indicted as soon as possible, if there is a legal basis for this and if all the necessary evidence has been gathered. We especially emphasize that the Tribunal must not allow legal proceedings against only the "small fish" to hide the most important instigators, planners, organizers and executors of the terrible crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Because of the global dimensions and the character of the crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, the International Tribunal must gain our special support and have a special place, in the interest of the general principles of human justice.

In this respect, we insist that Radovan Karadžić, Ratko Mladić and all others who must answer for the terrible human tragedy inflicted upon millions of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in other parts of the former Yugoslavia must be brought before the International Tribunal.

Mr. Fulci (Italy): Speaking on the report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, I should like, first of all, to thank the President of the Tribunal, Judge Antonio Cassese, for his clear, comprehensive and thoughtful statement. Both that statement and the report show the many positive developments in the Tribunal's work, as well as the main difficulties in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations. Italy is particularly pleased with the Tribunal's achievements, and is fully committed to helping overcome the remaining obstacles in its path.

Since its establishment in 1993, the Tribunal has come a long way towards setting up an effective judicial mechanism for the prosecution and punishment of crimes against international humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia. Despite enormous problems, a number of important results have been achieved — thanks

especially to the skill and dedication of the judges, the Prosecutor's office, and those non-governmental organizations that joined in the effort.

The Tribunal has now become fully operational. The Prosecutor has handed down indictments, all of which have been confirmed by the reviewing judges. Arrest warrants have been issued. Those warrants against political or military leaders, although not yet executed, have resulted in the exclusion of such persons from the negotiating table. Furthermore, hearings have been held before both the Trial Chambers and the Appeals Chambers. In one of those proceedings, 13 witnesses were heard in court. This activity was also made possible by the creation of all the necessary judicial infrastructures — another area where the Tribunal had to start from scratch.

Other major problems, as we have heard, still lie ahead. In order for the Tribunal to meet the expectations of the world community, the full cooperation of Member States is of crucial importance. States must cooperate by adopting national legislation to implement the statute of the Tribunal. Without such legislation, search and arrest warrants cannot be executed, nor can subpoenas be carried out. Adequate financial support for the Tribunal is also imperative. I am glad to say that Italy was the first country to adopt implementing legislation, and Italy has also made a sizeable financial contribution to the Tribunal's Trust Fund.

We very much hope that the current peace negotiations on the former Yugoslavia will strengthen the Tribunal's role, rather than jeopardizing it. The peace settlement should include clauses making it incumbent upon all the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Tribunal. Peace and justice must go hand in hand.

In conclusion, let me emphasize another reason why the Tribunal must succeed. The International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the one on Rwanda are a sort of laboratory in the area of international criminal justice. They may prove to be of tremendous importance for the future establishment of a permanent criminal court. Italy has consistently advocated the creation of a permanent court, and has recently renewed its offer to host the diplomatic conference to adopt the relevant statute. We therefore cannot but fully support the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, not only to bring to justice the perpetrators of atrocious crimes against humanity, but also, allow me to repeat, as a

milestone on the road to establishing a permanent international criminal court.

Mr. Danesh-Yazdi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Allow me at the outset to extend my appreciation to Mr. Antonio Cassese, the President of the International Tribunal, for submitting the second annual report of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

Peace in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be fully restored, and then trusted, unless those criminal elements who have organized and perpetrated the most horrible and deplorable atrocities in that region are brought to justice. The conscience of the whole world has been wounded by the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and by the grave violations of the laws or customs applicable in armed conflict, as well by the inhumane treatment directed against Bosnian Muslims by the Serbs, including genocide, the massive rape of women, torture and the forcible displacement of civilians. These crimes eventually persuaded the international community to urgently establish an ad hoc tribunal to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. This means that those criminal acts, which are beyond any explanation, are not to be condoned.

The gravity and seriousness of the crimes and breaches of international humanitarian law committed by the Serbs made it imperative that the International Tribunal, as an exceptional and unique case, be set up beyond the traditional approach of international law requiring the establishment of such a body by treaty. The unique character of the Tribunal, and indeed the hope expressed in the seventh preambular paragraph of Security Council resolution 827 (1993) that the Tribunal would

"contribute to ensuring that such violations are halted and effectively redressed",

gave rise to high expectations for immediate action, irrespective of the fact that such judicial institutions normally come after the event, when the hostilities have come to an end.

With the removal of some obstacles that had impeded the functioning of the Tribunal at the initial stage, responsibility now rests upon this legal body to intensify its endeavours to achieve the objectives set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Serbian atrocities against the Muslim people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have in no way ceased. Recent reports have revealed that the Bosnian Muslims, in places such as Srebrenica, Zepa and Banja Luka, have been subjected to extremely harsh treatment, such as "ethnic cleansing", massacre and massive torture. Had the perpetrators of those grave crimes previously faced serious political and legal reactions, the world would not have witnessed such tragic events. The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns all those crimes, and urges the Tribunal to take the most vigorous action against those responsible.

The International Tribunal, which has the support of the international community, should ensure that under no circumstances is the imperative of justice ignored. To this end, the indictment and punishment of those criminals is of the utmost urgency. In this context, peace negotiations with the very individuals who have been indicted by the Tribunal should be avoided under any circumstances.

The Tribunal should fulfil its task effectively and expeditiously regardless of political expediencies. It is of great satisfaction that the second report of the Tribunal states that

"Whatever the political consequences or the eventual outcome of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, the Tribunal will not flinch from this task." (A/50/365, para. 5)

Furthermore, the proper functioning of the Tribunal can heal the wounds resulting from war crimes in the Balkans. This can create trust, confidence and hope for the future, all of which are vital for the realization of lasting peace and tranquillity in the region.

For the Tribunal to be successful and effective, the cooperation of all States is undoubtedly necessary and crucial. It provides an appropriate solution to the problems referred to in paragraph 191 of the report under consideration. An important indication of such cooperation could be the pledge of all States not to harbour war criminals. In our view, the United Nations, through its various bodies, can adopt certain measures to ensure such cooperation.

Despite the remaining problems still hampering the satisfactory functioning of the Tribunal, it is indeed a positive development that some individuals have been indicted for their criminal offences. Further steps should be taken to punish them, as well as to bring all other

violators to justice. We share the view expressed in the report that the Tribunal has a historical role in setting precedents for future international criminal forums. As envisaged in the report, the Tribunal, if it acts in a just and effective manner, will

"send a message to the victims of appalling crimes that humanity will not turn its back on them."
(A/50/365, para. 199)

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on its part, stands ready to cooperate fully with the Tribunal in fulfilling its task.

Mr. Gnehm (United States of America): The President of the Tribunal, Mr. Antonio Cassese, has honoured this body today with a thorough introduction of the report of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. President Cassese and the other Tribunal judges are performing, and performing extremely well, a difficult and challenging task. They have had to develop procedures for operating in an environment where thoroughness and fairness are absolutely essential and precedents are inexact and few. Their daily efforts serve to bolster international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. They have earned our respect, and they deserve our support.

President Cassese's presence and his statement here today reflect the critical role that the General Assembly continues to play in connection with the war-crimes Tribunals. The Assembly's condemnation of the crimes against humanity that have been committed in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia illustrates the universal nature of the outrage over those atrocities. It is here in this Assembly that funding for the Tribunals is decided, and it will be the level of financial and political support received from members of this Assembly that will play a major role in determining whether the Tribunals achieve their full potential.

The success of the Tribunal in achieving its purpose is a matter of concern to the United States Government at the highest levels. In a recent statement given in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Nuremburg trials, President Clinton reaffirmed America's strong support for the Tribunals and for their goals. The American people want to see those responsible for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity brought to justice. We want to deter such crimes, and we want to help nations torn apart by violence to begin a process of healing and reconciliation.

In the President's words, the

"indictments are not negotiable. Those accused ... must be tried, and, if found guilty, they must be held accountable. Some people are concerned that pursuing peace in Bosnia and prosecuting war criminals are incompatible goals. But I believe they are wrong. There must be peace for justice to prevail, and there must be justice when peace prevails."

In those same remarks, President Clinton said that

"nations all around the world that value freedom and tolerance [should] establish a permanent international court to prosecute, with the support of the United Nations Security Council, serious violations of international humanitarian law."

Such a permanent court would, again in the President's words, serve as a

"tribute to the people who did such important work in Nuremburg",

and it would build on the experience garnered during the deliberations of the current United Nations Tribunals.

In his statement today, President Cassese identifies a number of issues facing the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. One involves the need for cooperation by key Member States.

In this connection, my Government has recently been in contact with President Milosevic of Serbia and Montenegro and elicited from him a firm commitment to cooperate with the Tribunal in its work, whether or not armed conflict continues. We expect these encouraging words to be matched by deeds.

Similar assurances have not been forthcoming from the Bosnian Serb Administration in Pale. Member States should demand of Pale what the statute of the Tribunal demands: full cooperation. In the current peace talks my Government is emphasizing the importance we attach to all parties' cooperation with the Tribunal in all aspects of its work.

President Cassese also spoke of the need for adequate resources. Accordingly, we applaud the financial and other support given by many Governments and by the European Union. We are grateful for the

voluntary contributions made by several Governments and the efforts of non-governmental organizations to support the work of the Tribunals. But these efforts must be continued, sustained and enlarged. The Tribunals deserve the broadest possible support.

For its part, my Government assures the Tribunals of its backing, which to date has been considerable. In addition to the 1994-95 regular budget assessment of \$5.5 million that we have paid for the Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the United States has made a voluntary contribution of \$3 million, in addition to providing more than 20 prosecutors, investigators and other experts, as well as various supplies and items of equipment at our own expense. Our total commitment to date of about \$13.5 million is a beginning, and we encourage other Member States to join us in pledging sufficient funds for the Tribunal to meet its responsibilities.

We applaud recent actions by the United Nations Secretariat increasing the flexibility of its support for the Tribunal, including the transfer of some fiscal authority to the Tribunal.

Mr. Pibulsonggram (Thailand), Vice-President, took the Chair.

As President Cassese's statement today attests, the ad hoc Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are new and important ventures. My Government strongly supports them and urges others to do the same. The success of the tribunals will have an important impact not only on the conflicts to which they specifically relate, but on future efforts to address violations of international humanitarian law. We must continue our efforts to find effective ways to investigate and prosecute war criminals. We must heed the lessons of Nuremburg. In so doing, and only in so doing, will we fulfil the responsibilities of our own time.

Mr. Yoogalingam (Malaysia): At the outset, allow me on behalf of my delegation to express our appreciation to the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Mr. Antonio Cassese, for the very comprehensive second annual report of the Tribunal submitted to the Assembly, as contained in document A/50/365. My delegation would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for its cooperation and the support given to the Tribunal since its establishment.

Having carefully studied the report, my delegation would like to make the following points. First, my delegation is concerned over the financial difficulties still confronting the Tribunal, particularly after more than two years of its existence. While recognizing that some aspects of this problem were addressed by the General Assembly this summer, the important work of this Tribunal should not be allowed to grind to a halt as a result of budgetary constraints. We need to undertake specific measures to ensure secure and stable financing for the Tribunal to fulfil its role fully and effectively. We hope that the international community will be more forthcoming in its contributions to finance the activities of the Tribunal in order to ensure that justice is done in the former Yugoslavia. To date, 17 countries have made voluntary contributions, including Malaysia, which has contributed \$2 million.

Secondly, we are also concerned about the drastic financial measures recently imposed by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Administration and Management, on the Tribunal. In this regard, we support the resolution unanimously adopted by the Tribunal at its eighth plenary session on 6 October 1995. We share its view that

"it would be contrary to the interests of justice to hamper its activities in the manner sought by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management by restricting travel and recruitment."

We also share the view that simply curtailing the activities of the Tribunal and awaiting an improvement in the financial situation of the United Nations is not the best option. In this regard, we urge the Secretary-General to reconsider his decision.

Thirdly, we are pleased to note that some actions have been taken by the Tribunal to prosecute war criminals. We note that on 24 July 1995 the Prosecutor submitted an indictment against Dr. Karadžić and General Mladić, the two Bosnian Serb leaders charged, either on the basis of superior authority or direct responsibility, with genocide, crimes against humanity, violations of the laws or customs of war and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Fourthly, we share the observation contained in paragraph 191 of the report which underlines the necessity for Member States to cooperate with the

Tribunal to bring criminals to justice, considering that the Tribunal has

"no enforcement agencies at its disposal".

At the same time, we also wish to acknowledge as well as underline the important role of non-governmental organizations in assisting the work of the Tribunal.

We hope that justice will be served, as we firmly believe that criminals cannot go unpunished nor the victims be denied justice. As the adage goes, "justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done", to atone for the thousands killed, raped, brutalized and maimed in the former Yugoslavia. Let me conclude by saying that the credibility and effectiveness of the Tribunal will be judged by its action, and for this we need the political commitment and the financial support of all.

Mr. Çelem (Turkey): We are happy to see positive developments in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The adoption of the agreed basic principles of Geneva and New York, and the ongoing peace talks in Dayton, foster our optimism. However, we are aware of the fact that there may be stumbling blocks and set-backs on the long and difficult road to a just and viable peace. For this reason, we must never lose sight of the fact that the long-awaited response to the aggressor has opened the current window of opportunity to bring an end to the aggression and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The recently created momentum for a genuine peace could only be maintained with this awareness. In this context, the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia is extremely important.

We have studied very carefully the second annual report of the International Criminal Tribunal which is contained in document A/50/365. We have also listened with great interest to the thought-provoking statement of the President of the Tribunal, Mr. Antonio Cassese. As he stated:

"Regrettably, two of the entities of the former Yugoslavia have so far refused to cooperate: I refer to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Bosnian Serb Administration in Pale". (*supra*, p. 3)

We have noted with grave concern his observation that the total lack of cooperation of these two "entities" has been greatly hampering the work of the Tribunal. We call

on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to start its cooperation with the Tribunal without further delay.

We fully agree with the chief Prosecutor's statement that

"where we find evidence that the political and military leadership knew or had reason to know of serious violations of international humanitarian law and failed to take actions to prevent these violations or to punish those who committed them, we also will seek those leaders accountable."

The chief Prosecutor has so far issued nine indictments charging individuals, including the political and military leaders responsible for the grave violations of international humanitarian law. These indictments are crucial steps for a successful prosecution process.

We attach utmost importance to the admonition of Mr. Cassese that peace without justice is no peace at all. We fully endorse his remarks:

"If there is to be a lasting peace, it must be accompanied by a sense of justice in the minds of all the citizens of, and in particular the victims of atrocities in, the former Yugoslavia. If at the end of a war torturers and their victims are treated alike, the war's legacy of hatred, resentment and acrimony will not have been snuffed out; rather, it will continue to smoulder. The existence of peace in such a climate would be precarious indeed." (*supra*, p. 4)

Indeed, if peace is to triumph, justice must prevail. And only then can a climate be created where the people can live and work together free from fear. The responsibility falls on us. Criminals cannot go unpunished nor the victims denied justice. We will continue to support the International Criminal Tribunal in discharging its historic task.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 49?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 162

Universal Congress on the Panama Canal

Draft resolution (A/50/L.13)

The Acting President: I call on the representative of Panama to introduce draft resolution A/50/L.13.

Mr. Illueca (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): For many reasons related to the history of Panama, from the time of its discovery by Spain until our day, it is a special honour for me to introduce draft resolution A/50/L.13, "Universal Congress on the Panama Canal", which my delegation has submitted to this fiftieth session of the General Assembly together with the representatives of France and the United States.

The reasons for this joint submission were explained at the meeting of the General Committee on 20 September last, when the inclusion of the item on the agenda was requested. At that time, we referred to the Panamanian Government's wish to obtain United Nations support for this initiative linked to the future of the Panama Canal and its role in the twenty-first century.

With that intention in mind, we appointed Mr. Fernando Manfredo, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Panama for the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, to be a member of our delegation. For a number of years he was Deputy Administrator and then Administrator of this interoceanic waterway.

With the Assembly's permission, I would venture to suggest that the draft resolution contains the necessary elements to highlight the convergences between the competence of the United Nations and the implications of the Congress in some areas of that competence.

Reference is also made in the draft to facts and dates which mark the process that will culminate in 1999 with Panama's exercise of full sovereignty over all its territory and assumption of total responsibility for the control and functioning of the Panama Canal, for which we enjoy the support of brotherly countries of the Americas and elsewhere.

We should also like to draw attention to the very pertinent reference to 1998 as International Year of the Ocean and to the World Exposition to take place in Lisbon by decision of the Government of Portugal.

The draft resolution, which we are asking the Assembly to adopt by consensus, will help to make the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal a part of the rich experience of the United Nations with regard to international and multidisciplinary meetings as a form of world diplomacy and a way of promoting brotherhood among men through knowledge.

Beginning in December 1999, Panama will be assuming a responsibility which we firmly intend to honour. By preparing and holding the Universal Congress, we shall be sending a powerful signal to the world on how international cooperation, taking into account the interests and expectations of many countries, disciplines and activities, can work to define and assure the role that the Panama Canal will play in the twenty-first century in problems and preoccupations that are part of the subject-matter of the United Nations: the law of the sea, international trade, the environment, and sustainable development.

In addition, with the holding of the Universal Congress, my Government hopes to bring the scientific, technological and cultural life of the Isthmus of Panama into harmony with that of the advanced centres of the world.

For many reasons related to the history of my country, and having to do with my own record as a champion of Panama's sovereignty over the whole of our national territory, I feel that at this time I am representing an age-old aspiration of all the men and women of Panama. Unquestionably it will be a source of deep satisfaction to bring the twentieth century to a close with an act which will again bear witness to the entire world of the continuing universalist vocation of the people of Panama.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Bolivia, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and the Caribbean States.

Mr. Camacho Omiste (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): As Chairman of the Regional Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for the month of November 1995, it is my honour to speak on agenda item 162 entitled "Universal Congress on the Panama Canal".

For many years, Latin American and Caribbean countries have followed with common interest items relating to the Panama Canal and the negotiations which led to the signing of the treaties known as the "Torrijos-

Carter Treaties" on 7 September 1977. On that historic occasion, the Heads of State, Heads of Government and representatives of the American Republics witnessed the signing of the Treaties, and on the same date they signed the Washington Declaration recognizing:

"the importance for the hemisphere, for trade and for world shipping of agreements designed to ensure the accessibility and continued neutrality of the Panama Canal".

Panama is a centre of universal significance, a keystone in relations between the northern and southern hemispheres on the American continent and for interoceanic communication for all peoples. Some of Europe's influence in the sixteenth century had reached broad swathes of South America, and Panama became a required passage for a significant proportion of world trade. Consequently, it was also a meeting-point of economic and political interests with global influence. These geographical and historical realities lend extreme significance to events in this special region. How can we be indifferent to the problems, hopes and achievements of our fellow peoples that live in our part of the world?

In the conviction that the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal will promote understanding and stability, and also the development and international cooperation that will make possible the orderly and sustainable use of the resources of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the delegations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries wish through me to express their support for draft resolution A/50/L.13, and to request that it be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Marrero (United States of America): As a co-sponsor of the draft resolution before the Assembly, the United States Government believes firmly that Panama's Universal Congress on the Panama Canal is of major importance, not only for Panama but for world commerce. The United States and Panama are working closely together to ensure that the transfer of the Canal to Panama on 31 December 1999 will be smooth. During the official working visit to Washington by President Pérez Balladares, President Clinton pledged full cooperation to place the Canal under Panamanian control on schedule.

The United States is confident that Panama will be ready to assume control over the Canal by the end of the century. Even now, Panamanian employees are fulfilling the vast majority of tasks associated with the Canal's operation. The Universal Congress on the Panama Canal,

which Panama plans to host in 1997, offers a unique opportunity for the world community to get a first-hand look at Canal operations and the preparations for a seamless transfer of responsibility.

We ask all Member States to join us in strongly supporting Panama's initiative in hosting the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, and to assist it in this important undertaking.

Mr. Gaussot (France) (*interpretation from French*): In 1879, the *Société de géographie de Paris* convened an international congress, under the chairmanship of Ferdinand de Lesseps, to study the question of an interoceanic canal. The congress decided, in a resolution, to build a canal along a line that would link the Gulf of Limón, on the Atlantic, and the Bay of Panama, on the Pacific. And so the Panama Canal was born.

The Government of Panama has taken the initiative of convening a new Universal Congress, to be held in 1997 — in other words, 118 years after the Paris congress. The objective of this international meeting will be to contribute to ensuring the effective use of the canal, integrated into an open multilateral trading system, under a dynamic administration capable of overcoming the problems of development in the twenty-first century.

The purpose of the resolution before the Assembly is to support the Panamanian Government's initiative.

France is happy to see that the Panama Canal, which has a special place in our national history, will thus enjoy lasting development and that the authorities that will take over management in under four years are concerned with ensuring that the Canal fits smoothly into the international economy. For those reasons, France decided to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

We are certain that the choices made by the Government of Panama are in keeping with the universal objective that motivated Ferdinand de Lesseps when, over a century ago, he set about building the Canal, and we are certain also that the durability of that spirit of universality will contribute to the maintenance and development of the excellent relations that already exist between France and Panama.

Mr. Manfredo (Panama) (*interpretation from Spanish*): It is a great honour for me to speak before the General Assembly, as representative of my country, on

the subject of the Panama Canal, its importance for the world and its prospects on the eve of the new millennium.

This is a doubly significant honour because this is the year that the United Nations is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, 50 years during which it has accomplished a very difficult though noble task in maintaining peace and finding negotiated solutions for a manifold and diverse range of international problems and conflicts.

I must say, first, that the Panama Canal is a peaceful undertaking that in the 81 years it has been in operation has been an important element in the economic and social development of the world's peoples. The Panama Canal has made a positive contribution to the economic development of many countries which find the interoceanic route the cheapest and most direct for transporting materials and products in their international trade.

The Panama Canal is part of the world's transport infrastructure. Despite the development of alternative systems, the Canal will continue to play an important role in the world's sea-borne trade. Last year, ships flying the flags of 78 countries used the Canal as they made over 12,000 crossings of the isthmus, east-west and west-east.

In Washington, on 7 September 1977, the Heads of State and Government that were present at the signing of the Canal Treaties, known as the "Torrijos-Carter Treaties", recognized

"... the importance for the hemisphere, for trade and for world shipping of agreements designed to ensure the accessibility and continued neutrality of the Panama Canal".

The Canal Treaties, signed 18 years ago, cover the full reversion of administration and control of the interoceanic waterway to the Republic of Panama starting at noon on 31 December 1999. This means that we Panamanians will be assuming an important historic responsibility at the birth of a new century and a new millennium. We will not only be recovering our principal natural resource and restoring the integrity of our territory, thus consolidating the long process of independence; we will also be assuming, before the eyes of the world community and under the gaze of our national destiny, the obligation to manage the Panama Canal so that this great global shipping lane continues to function as efficiently, economically and safely as it has thus far and to make the necessary investments to respond to the demands of its use.

Facing this national commitment with a sense of responsibility, the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Ernesto Pérez Balladares, in an executive decree dated 25 January 1995, called for the holding of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal, which will take place in Panama City from 7-10 September 1997. Historic precedents exist for a Congress of this kind: the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama of 1826, convoked by Simón Bolívar, the Liberator, and the Congress convened by the Société de Géographie de Paris, under the presidency of Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, in Paris in 1879.

One of the primary objectives of this Congress is to show the international community, the maritime sector, the users of the interoceanic waterway and those countries whose international trade is closely linked to and dependent upon the operation of the Canal that the transition from a North American Canal to a Panamanian Canal is taking place normally through a coordinated process of transfer of responsibilities.

The Transition Committee appointed by the Government of Panama has been operating for several months now. It is responsible for the adoption of measures and initiatives to ensure the smooth operational transition of the Canal's entire administration to Panamanian hands. To achieve this goal, the Panamanian Transition Committee works in close and harmonious cooperation with its North American counterpart.

It is important to emphasize that the Governments of Panama and of the United States are carrying out an expeditious transition process aimed at ensuring the continued and efficient functioning of the interoceanic waterway and at providing structures and policies that will give users full confidence of having continued access to the Canal.

The convocation of the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal and its holding two years from now constitute part of the transition process, in the area of planning the future strategy for the Canal. The Congress seeks the lofty goal of bringing together statesmen and representatives of Governments, of international organizations, of public and private academic institutions, of the shipping community and of international transport companies so that they may consider together the role that the Panama Canal should play in the twenty-first century.

The Government of Panama hopes that the Congress will not only lead the community of users of the Canal to reaffirm its full confidence in Panamanians' ability to manage the Canal efficiently and effectively in the coming century, but will also make them feel that they are participants in the formulation of administrative policies and practices that make it possible for management to serve them, and the economic community in general better. It is worth noting that Panama's confidence in its ability to manage the Canal is based, *inter alia*, on the fact that currently more than 90 per cent of the staff that operate the Canal at various levels of responsibility are Panamanian, including the general manager.

The convocation of the Universal Congress of the Panama Canal corresponds with my country's objective with the spirit that moves it to align itself with the new trends towards a global partnership for sustainable development, which implies the necessity to formulate, through cooperation, a balanced, integrated approach to issues concerning the environment, trade and development. Among its main goals are the promotion of international cooperation in order to achieve an orderly, sustainable use and development of the resources of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and a rational exploitation and development of the Canal basin and the coastal areas that gives priority consideration to the water requirements for the Canal's operation.

We already have a draft agenda for the Universal Congress on the Panama Canal. The Congress will see studies on policies and legal structures and forecasts of international maritime demands. In addition, studies on human resources, operations and maintenance, water resources and protection of the environment will be carried out. Panama will report to the participants in the Congress on what it has done in terms of organizational structure, goals and objectives, legal framework and administrative rules and procedures for the operations of the Canal starting in the year 2000. Workshops will be held on canal traffic, the financial structure of the enterprise, toll policy, strategic planning and the Treaty concerning the Permanent Neutrality of the Panama Canal.

During its four days of work, the Congress will deal with the issue of broadening the Gaillard Cut, the third set of locks, forecasts of long-term demand and the viewpoints and ideas of the users of the Canal. It will also deal with maritime agencies, the operation of ports, the supplying of vessels, repair services, the registry of Panamanian vessels and the market for the transshipment of cargo.

The Government of Panama will make a presentation to the Congress on investment opportunities in the areas adjacent to the banks of the Canal that have reverted to Panama and that will serve to support and develop shipping and world commerce. The general and regional plan on the use of reverted areas will be introduced, along with an analysis of the many opportunities for developing industrial and commercial centres in these areas.

The Universal Congress on the Panama Canal constitutes in essence an invitation to the international community to come to Panama in September 1997 so that together we may cast a view to the future and jointly examine the Canal's role in the development of international trade in the new world full of challenges and opportunities that will arrive with the twenty-first century.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/50/L.13.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/50/L.13?

Draft resolution A/50/L.13 was adopted (resolution 50/12).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 162?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 40 (continued)

Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal

Draft resolution (A/50/L.15)

The Acting President: I call on the representative of Saint Lucia, His Excellency the Honourable Edward Innocent, Minister for Community Development, Social Affairs, Youth, Sports, Cooperatives and Local Government.

Mr. Innocent (Saint Lucia): The English claim that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of

Eton, and I accept the theory that the discipline and skills required in war can best be inculcated through the attitudes acquired and encouraged on the field of sport. But today, the joy of having the sporting achievements of the International Olympic Committee aired in this Assembly is clouded by the news of the untimely death of Prime Minister Rabin. This is cause for serious reflection. We cannot be too smug about battles being won on the basis of the virtues of the world of sport. We must use the coincidence of these two events to reflect on the ideal that our playing-fields should become polytechnics for peace, not preparatory schools for war.

It is fitting that Ministers for Sport, like myself, can come to this Mecca of freedom, justice and equality to express openly our views on the value of sport to our communities. The Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, lit the torch for us when he said:

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures".

In my country, Saint Lucia, it is precisely this perception that induced us to become members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and to work hard to ensure that our National Olympic Committee lives up to the ideals of the IOC.

Small countries face tremendous disadvantages in the fiercely competitive world of sport. We cannot afford the basic facilities to train and develop our athletic skills. We have no adequate stadium for our games, no cinder track, no extensive coaching facilities for the many fine players from rural areas, who are destined to remain unknown. Despite our shortage of facilities, however, we are attempting to establish mini-stadiums island-wide, and we have started the erection of a national sports centre in the southern part of the island. It is our aim to construct multi-purpose courts in various communities around the island. This is part of a general review of our national sports policy.

Our size and our indigence have not prevented us from producing athletes of world class, such as Rick Wayne, who stormed the heights of body-building by winning the Mr. World, Mr. America and Mr. Universe titles. There is hope. The International Olympic Committee has already demonstrated, throughout the developing world, that it is dedicated to bringing diverse peoples together in bonds of friendship and good will. It has also shown its intention to help disadvantaged young people to attain great heights in sports.

I can safely say that the Olympic Movement has created a level playing-field. People of diverse cultural backgrounds, varying religious beliefs and different ideologies have been brought together to compete with one another under acceptable rules. The coming together of peoples, nations and ethnic groups is a fundamental element of global human existence. I commend and laud the International Olympic Committee for this feat.

Today, every nation wants to be part of the Olympic Ideal. Every nation wants to be part of this great international global fraternity. This is because we understand the role of the International Olympic Committee in our physical, mental, psychological, social and human development. Indeed, the International Olympic Committee has served as a model for other international sporting bodies and other organizations. In that regard, its role as an arbiter in times of conflict is significant.

The Olympic Ideal is the promotion of international understanding among the youth of the world through sports and culture, in order to advance the harmonious development of humankind. There is no doubt that we have been building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

As indicated in resolution 49/29 of 1994, the International Olympic Committee is collaborating with relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system. This is evident in areas such as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

Finally, we have recognized in this debate the tremendous benefits that sports can bring to the frustrated youth in our communities, who move rudderless through life, with no value system to support them. We have seen the value of tolerance and understanding, which are nurtured on the field of sport. We salute the joint efforts of the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee in bringing the peoples of the world to mutual enjoyment of the physical, cultural and spiritual riches that this Earth offers. The Government and the people of Saint Lucia wish to express their full support for these two institutions as they celebrate their respective anniversaries.

The Acting President: I should like to inform the Assembly that the representative of Qatar has requested permission to participate in the debate on this item. Inasmuch as the list of speakers was closed yesterday morning, I ask the Assembly whether there is any objection to the inclusion of this delegation.

As I see no objection, Qatar is included in the list of speakers.

The next speaker is Mr. Vetumbuavi Veli, Director at the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Namibia.

Mr. Veli (Namibia): It is indeed an honour for me to represent my country in this Assembly during its consideration of draft resolution A/50/L.15, entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal".

The presence, during this special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, of several Ministers responsible for sports in their respective States, as well as of the President of the International Olympic Committee, His Excellency Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, and other key figures of the Olympic Movement is eloquent testimony to the fact that sports can be a force for peace and, therefore, can contribute to the resolution of internal and global problems.

It is well known that my country, Namibia, was involved in a bitter war against foreign domination and the policy of apartheid. Our country was divided along racial lines. However, in 1990, when we attained independence, our President, His Excellency Mr. Sam Nujoma, introduced the policy of national reconciliation, and sport was designated as one of the driving forces to unite our people.

Although health and education account for the highest proportion of our national budget, a modest percentage is allocated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. However, we have managed to establish basic sporting facilities for our people, particularly in areas neglected during the previous dispensation. And we intend to establish such facilities throughout the country by the year 2000.

As a country that was involved in a long and bitter struggle for liberation, Namibia has many disabled people and, therefore, has created an organization for the physically disabled. As a matter of fact, one of our disabled athletes, Mr. Greyling, has been invited to participate in the upcoming New York Marathon.

In spite of the small size of our population, coupled with lack of funds, Namibia as a country has nevertheless managed to participate in each and every major sporting event. Since we attained independence five years ago, we have taken part in the Barcelona Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, the World Athletic Championships, the World Cup Preliminary Competition, the All Africa Games and the African Cup of Nations.

In Namibia today, former enemies are now competing as opponents locally and as teammates internationally when representing Namibia. The role that sport has played to reconcile our people cannot be overemphasized.

Since I mentioned the Barcelona Olympic Games, allow me to avail myself of this opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Samaranch — first, for accepting Namibia as a family member of the Olympic Movement immediately after our independence. Our acceptance in the Olympic Movement opened the way for one of our top athletes, Frankie Fredericks, to win two silver medals in the 100- and 200-metre sprints. And, believe me, his victories were indeed powerful motivating and unifying forces for our people. Each and every Namibian, regardless of his or her colour, social background or religion, supported Frankie. Again, this is testimony to the reconciliatory role that sport can play.

Secondly, I would also like to thank the President of the International Olympic Committee for taking time to visit Namibia last year. It was indeed gratifying for us, as Namibians, to see that Mr. Samaranch made time to visit all the members of his Committee, including the small ones, such as Namibia.

And it was indeed encouraging to listen to him yesterday, when he said:

"It is vital that the National Olympic Committees maintain excellent relations with their respective Governments, and especially with the ministries of youth and sports."

The fact that Governments recognize the autonomy of the National Olympic Committees is important, but it is equally important for these Committees to realize that they do not operate in a vacuum. Therefore, harmonious relationships between Governments and National Olympic Committees are of paramount importance for the future of sport, and they should be encouraged by the highest authorities.

I am happy to inform the General Assembly that the Namibia National Olympic Committee has, in view of the forthcoming 1996 Olympic Games, started a programme to promote Olympism among our young people in Namibia. One of its first activities was the publication of a brochure under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia. "Operation Excellence", as it is termed, is aimed at enabling the best of our Namibian athletes to take part in the 1996 Olympics. This is a combined effort by the Ministries of Youth and Sports, and Basic Education and Culture, and by the National Olympic Committee.

Finally, work is also already under way to launch the preparation stage for Namibia's participation in the Commonwealth Games in Sydney.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Bangladesh, Mr. M. Shahjahan Omar.

Mr. Omar (Bangladesh): It is indeed a great pleasure for me to speak on this auspicious occasion in which we celebrate, during this fiftieth United Nations, year the centennial anniversary of the modern Olympic Games. Both these occasions are imbued with a special ambience of hope and idealism and a sense and spirit of optimism.

Sport is a singularly unifying factor, bringing together people from all nations, from all cultures and from all backgrounds to strive for the same goal of excellence. The pursuit of this goal unleashes the potency of youth, allowing it to be channelled and translated into a multiplicity of constructive endeavours for society.

Sport is certainly an invitation to competition — but it is competition conditioned by tolerance and full respect for the rights of others. This inherent element of restraint and its studied exercise is a crucial norm of democracy. Sport and the inculcation of this spirit of equality, tolerance and dignity are thus a vital means to train youth around the world to live in harmony and cooperation while striving for perfection.

Sport is an ideal mechanism to bring about cohesion among different countries, to promote understanding and to bring peoples and nations closer together. There can be no doubt that the Olympic Ideal contributes to this end and that the call for an Olympic Truce, in which all hostilities must cease during the Games, is an objective worth supporting, to mobilize not only youth around the globe in the cause of peace but, through them, all humankind.

The Olympic Ideal enjoins upon us all to build a better, more peaceful and united world. By placing the spirit and ideal of sportsmanship in the forefront, it paces humanity to strive for the better things of life, for peace, prosperity and progress. Bangladesh is committed to the spirit of the Olympic Ideal, which has as its foundation the call for understanding, tolerance, solidarity and dignity.

Draft resolution A/50/L.15 supports increased cooperation between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in different social programmes. Furthermore, it encourages Governments to devote attention to the development of youth and a wide variety of youth-related activities. We are therefore particularly happy to cosponsor the draft resolution before the Assembly and commend it for adoption by acclamation.

The Acting President: I now call upon the representative of Suriname, Mrs. Irma E. Klein-Loemban Tobing.

Mrs. Klein-Loemban Tobing (Suriname): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend sincere greetings and words of praise to the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, and at the same time to thank him most heartily for all his efforts towards the sport movement in my country. Allow me, at the same time, to extend greetings to and express solidarity with all delegations participating in this important meeting.

It is a privilege to be a cosponsor of this widely supported draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.15, which promotes sport and the Olympic Ideal, with a view to building a peaceful and better world and strengthening the moral and physical capacities of our peoples.

The Suriname Olympic Committee gained broad support from the President of the Republic of Suriname and the Ministers of Education, Sport and Culture; Foreign Affairs; and Social Welfare, when they were presented with the letters of the President of the International Olympic Committee on the Olympic Truce and the Barcelona document regarding the "Earth pledge".

On that occasion the President of the Republic of Suriname assured the Suriname Olympic Committee and, through that organization, the International Olympic Committee that the Surinamese Government always

supports peace, good relations between nations and the endeavour of the Olympic Movement to take good care of the environment.

Sport unites. Sport promotes love and understanding among peoples and nations. On various occasions — in Seoul, South Korea, in 1988; in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992; and recently, in August 1995, in Göteborg, Sweden — Suriname has experienced the importance of the presence of young male and female sport heroes in putting a country in the spotlight and at the same time in promoting and improving the well-being of its peoples.

My delegation is fully aware that in moments of threats to and violations of peace and human dignity, it is important strongly to promote the participation of our young people in particular in national as well as international sport movements, in order to create peace, understanding, love, respect, harmony among peoples, to improve the quality of life and to translate into reality the well-known principle of *mens sana in corpore sano* — a healthy spirit in a healthy body.

The Republic of Suriname is very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the international sport movement through its governmental and non-governmental organizations and through its Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture, its Surinamese Olympic Committee and other national sport organizations such as the National Special Olympics Movement.

It is only within the context of the international sport movement that the Surinamese sport movement can achieve knowledge, know-how, strength, inspiration and sportpersonship.

Since Suriname really wants to be an integral part of a peaceful and better world, we therefore again commit ourselves to continued and strong participation in the Olympic Movement and its ideals throughout the world, in order to promote peace, friendship, tolerance, dignity, health, harmony, solidarity and human rights in general in today's world. The yearly Inter-Guyanese Games between the young people of Guyana, French Guyana and Suriname and the useful cooperation in the field of sport between the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Suriname and the Netherlands must be placed in this context.

In conclusion, allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to commend sport leaders all over the world for their tireless efforts to train children, young people, and

sportswomen and sportsmen to become true servants of the Olympic Ideal — true servants of peace.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Kuwait, Mr. Saleh Alnafeesi, Deputy General Director for Youth Affairs.

Mr. Alnafeesi (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): I am very pleased to see the interest of this Organization in young people and sports and the role this plays in international affairs, and I am pleased also at the fact that General Assembly meetings are dealing with this topic. This is a positive sign.

When we speak today of the Olympic Ideal which aims basically at strengthening the concepts of peace and brotherhood between peoples, we take this ideal to mean the renunciation of anything that would stand in the way of the new world order and obstruct its march towards the noble objectives of peaceful coexistence and the strengthening of the principles of security and stability and friendship, which are fundamental to the future of our peoples on the eve of the twenty-first century.

Today we are commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, repository of the hopes of peoples in a continued life of safety and dignity. Next summer, the XXVI Olympic Games will be held in Atlanta, USA. The fact that this will coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the Olympic Games, demonstrates the international community's interest in ensuring the success of such events, wherein the world reaffirms its optimism with regard to the role of sport and of the activities of youth in consolidating the hopes of peoples in peaceful coexistence.

While this meeting is held in reaffirmation of the noble Olympic Ideal, the athletic circles of Kuwait miss many athletes who continue to be incarcerated in the prisons of the Iraqi regime which ignores the international appeals calling for their release.

Since the beginnings of the Olympic Movement, the Kuwaiti Government has taken it upon itself to highlight the importance of strengthening these high ideals, which contribute to the creation of a civilized world. In this respect, the State of Kuwait has accorded a high priority to supporting Olympic activities both at a world level and a continental level, regardless of political and economic circumstances. In so doing, Kuwait proceeded from the conviction that the collective efforts of the international community should play an effective part in supporting the

Olympic Movement at all levels without any hesitation as such support would bespeak the high importance which should be attached to the ideals and values of the Olympic Movement.

Kuwait's young people made a point of participating, with the support of the State of Kuwait, in Olympic and sports events at a time when Kuwait was under occupation by Iraq, a State which has not understood the aspirations of the world's peoples after peaceful coexistence. The participation of the young people of Kuwait in such events was meant to send a message to the entire world that reaffirmed their rejection of injustice and political backwardness and reiterated the call for a peaceful life — a life of dignity in which the ideals of morality would be a tangible reality, not just mere words for propaganda consumption.

The continent of Asia has honoured Kuwait by giving it the Chairmanship of the Asian Olympic Council since its inception. Kuwait also hosts the headquarters of the Council. This means that Kuwait shoulders greater responsibilities in this area. We, therefore, reaffirm, from this rostrum, that Kuwait supports this Asian Olympic edifice that aims at strengthening the ideals of peace and brotherhood which the Asian peoples strive for, and rejects all divisiveness, bigotry, violence and extremism.

Kuwait, which has a principal seat on the International Olympic Committee, reaffirms its support for any project that would be adopted by the United Nations to consolidate the efforts aimed at strengthening the foundations of the new world order. In this regard, we thank our friends, the President and members of the Olympic Committee, for their praiseworthy efforts to promote the Olympic Movement in order to translate into reality the aspirations of the world's youth.

We believe that States should focus on developing those aspects of culture and knowledge that relate to Olympic ideals, either through direct inculcation at various levels of education and practical application in the various areas of sport, or through the use of the media in raising the general level of awareness regarding this subject. We are convinced that there is an urgent need to activate this vital area of youth activities by formulating a comprehensive plan with well-defined objectives that would make it possible to achieve the desired results even if continuous efforts are needed to review and reassess performance and reformulate the plan in such a way that the objectives may be achieved ultimately.

While reaffirming what I have just said, I also wish to draw attention to the need to take greater interest in programmes for the development of sports for the disabled. Such programmes have become a sign of civilized behaviour in those States that strive to integrate the disabled into all aspects of life. Such States view the disabled as a vital human resource whose productive capacities must be put to good use.

The States of the world are also called upon to take effective action to deal with drug abuse and practices that destroy the natural environment. The consequences of dealing permissively with such phenomena will be disastrous and will threaten the future of sports and the principles of the Olympic Movement.

We wish the Assembly complete success and thank the United Nations Secretariat deeply for the outstanding quality of the documents prepared for this meeting. Our best wishes go also to the United States, the friendly country that will be hosting the 1996 Olympics Games in Atlanta.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Nigeria, Ms. C. O. Aivboraye.

Ms. Aivboraye (Nigeria): Permit me, first of all, on behalf of the Nigerian delegation, to express heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Israel on the tragic loss of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. May his soul rest in peace.

The idea of the inclusion of this item, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal", on the agenda of the General Assembly at this session emanated from resolution 49/29 of 7 December 1994. Earlier, in resolution, 48/11 of 25 October 1993, this body had called for all hostilities to cease during the Winter and Summer Olympic Games so as to enable the youth of the world to participate in the Games without hindrance. It is in this context that the Nigerian delegation endorses the holding of this meeting of the General Assembly and welcomes the statement of the President of the International Olympic Committee.

Sports are an instrument for promoting understanding between peoples and strengthening harmonious relationships between sportsmen and enthusiasts, in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the United Nations. The Olympic Ideal promotes international understanding, particularly among the youth of the world, through sports and culture. This is why my

country attaches great importance to the development of sports and has continued to provide incentives for our youth to participate in international sports competitions.

Similarly, we played a constructive role in the formulation of resolution CM/Res.28(LXII) and its adoption by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its sixty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa last June. Also endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the OAU, that resolution, *inter alia*, supports the appeal for the international community to observe an Olympic Truce, to coincide with the next Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. We share the conviction that such a Truce will permit wider participation in those Games.

We are convinced that the support of the international community for the efforts of the International Olympic Committee geared to the promotion of international understanding and equality between nations will be invaluable for the success of the Games. We welcome the Committee's joint endeavours with the United Nations system in drawing attention in recent meetings to the relationship between sports and drugs, sports and environment and sports and health.

As we prepare for the XXVI Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, next year, we believe that an Olympic Truce will be the most positive sign of that support. We therefore call for a reaffirmation of the Olympic Truce and its faithful observance by Member States, well ahead of the opening of the Games and thereafter.

It is in this spirit that my delegation is pleased to be a sponsor of draft resolution A/50/L.15.

The Acting President: I now call on the Permanent Representative of Hungary, Mr. István Náthón.

Mr. Náthón (Hungary): It was on 16 June 1894, in Paris, that Baron Pierre de Coubertin introduced the idea of renewing the ancient Olympic Games. Hungary, along with 12 other countries, was present at that meeting and was one of the nine that immediately committed themselves to that initiative. Now, more than 100 years later, we again commit ourselves, with the same determination, to peace, the Olympic Ideal and the Olympic Truce.

Hungary became a sponsor of the draft resolution on the Olympic Ideal this year. We attach great importance to the General Assembly's discussion of the agenda item "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the

Olympic Ideal". We strongly believe that at present humankind needs that peaceful and better world — unfortunately, not for the first time since 1896.

The cruel assassination of Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister of Israel, reminds us again how difficult and long is the road leading towards a peaceful and better world. To realize the dream of reaching such a world, we certainly need peace between and within nations. From this rostrum, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and to the people of Israel for their loss.

Successes and defeats, winners and losers and smiles and tears have characterized the last 100 years all over the world, both inside and outside sport stadiums. One should not forget the applause and joy in the stadium in Athens 100 years ago, hailing the first winners of the modern Olympic Games. One should also remember the applause in the stadium in Sarajevo in 1984, when that city hosted the Winter Olympic Games. But one should also remember that only a few years later the same stadium in Sarajevo became a concentration camp and then a cemetery for the victims of a cruel war.

We, the States Members of the United Nations, can and should act together to prevent such tragedies from occurring again, anywhere. This is imperative, dictated by the Olympic Ideal and by our conscience as well.

In 1894, in Paris, Hungarians applauded Baron Pierre de Coubertin when he proposed the renewal of the ancient Olympic Games. Hungarian sportsmen participated in the first Olympic Games held in Athens and won two gold medals. Since then, during this first 100 years, Hungarian sportsmen have won 134 Olympic gold medals. We would like to express our hope that the next 100 years will bring us another 134 gold medals.

Only 256 days separate us from the opening of the centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta. The dream of the best sportsmen, coaches and sports managers all over the world is to win some gold medals in Atlanta. This is also true for Hungary.

The interrelationship between sport and peace is well known. This has also been shown by our discussion today. The participation of Ministers of Youth and Sport in the consideration of this item today is a clear message that sport, the Olympic Ideal and peace are really inseparable. The importance of our work is confirmed by

the presence of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.

We salute the increasing number of joint endeavours of the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations system. Hungary also recognizes and appreciates the importance of cooperation between the Olympic Movement and the world of diplomacy. We believe that this relationship cannot be proved more convincingly on our side than by the fact that the President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, a former world fencing champion, is at the same time our Ambassador to Spain.

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Ukraine, Mr. Borys Hudyma.

Mr. Hudyma (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): The delegation of Ukraine was unable to speak here yesterday, and we would therefore like today to convey our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Israel on the death of the Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin. We would also like to express our firm conviction that the continuation of the peace process in the Near East will be the best tribute to the glorious memory of Mr. Rabin, and a challenge to the forces standing in the way of a peaceful settlement.

The delegation of Ukraine considers that the item before us today, namely "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal", is both important and timely. All of us today are still greatly under the effect of the recent event of enormous historical significance, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The United Nations rose from the ashes of the Second World War, the most destructive war in the history of mankind, and was called upon to save succeeding generations from all the horrors of war. Unfortunately today, in spite of all the efforts of the United Nations and the tragic lessons of past wars, the world stands witness to the fact that alongside successful moves towards a settlement of the protracted conflicts of recent years, new hot-beds of tension continue to arise in various regions of the world.

It is well known that one of the most effective ways to secure peace among conflicting parties since ancient times has been through sport, the Olympic Games, because friendship among rivals has always and unfailingly been the outcome of any sporting event.

The tradition of *ekecheria*, the Olympic Truce, which was born in Greece many centuries ago, is still timely today and impels nations to tolerance, cooperation, rewarding competition in sport and work. Sport is a universal means for overcoming economic, social and individual problems. It provides a real opportunity to come to know oneself and acquire human individuality. Sport helps to give us a better feel for the world around us and to look at it through the eyes of a healthy human being.

We in Ukraine realize that sport and the Olympic Ideal must be inculcated in young people at the earliest age and we are exerting every effort to that end. Today, Ukraine has many sports schools for young people and children, physical education and Olympic training institutes, and advanced sports training schools. More than 600,000 people are involved with these physical culture and sport establishments alone.

Since Ukraine proclaimed its independence, a National Olympic Committee has been set up, along with 104 federations for new types of sport which have been recognized by international organizations. Also, regular teams in 43 kinds of sport have been established, as have a research institute for physical training and sport, the Ukrainian higher institute for trainers and other sporting establishments.

Active work is being carried out in Ukraine to create a national legislative and regulatory basis for sporting activities. Thus, in December 1993, an act on physical training and sport in Ukraine came into force, and in June 1994 a presidential decree on State support for the development of arts and sport in Ukraine was issued.

In recent years, Ukrainian sportsmen have notched up a series of major successes and brought many glorious victories to our country. The names of many Ukrainian sportsmen, Olympic, world and European champions and medal holders — Sergei Bubka in pole-vaulting; Oksana Bayul in figure-skating; Inessa Kravets for the triple jump; Dmitri Monakov for target shooting and many others — are known all over the world.

At the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, the combined Ukrainian team, appearing for the first time as an independent team, came thirteenth out of 57 in the unofficial team ranking. This year, 1995, is the year of the eliminating rounds for the Atlanta Olympics in which Ukrainian sportsmen are also preparing to compete; they

are now engaged in the sports struggle to win selection for these jubilee games.

Today, Ukraine is in a complex economic situation as a result of the problems arising from the transition from a command-type administration of the economy to a market economy. Despite the grave difficulties our country is experiencing at this stage, the Government of Ukraine is finding the necessary strength and resources for such an important aspect of young people's upbringing as sport and physical training.

We see the facts and figures I have just given you as Ukraine's worthy contribution to the Year of Tolerance and wish to express our hope that the Olympic Ideal, common sense and mutual respect, and in the final analysis, lasting peace, health and well-being will prevail over the senseless choice of hostility, crime, harmful practices and hopelessness.

Ukraine became a cosponsor of the draft resolution entitled "The Olympic Ideal" because we consider that all its provisions tally completely with the interests of our country and lay solid foundations for further consolidating international peace and security in the spirit of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the aims of the Olympic Movement. At the same time, we believe that questions involving young people and sport must be more fully reflected in United Nations documents in the future, in the context of the development of sport and physical education. The comprehensive development of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee requires all-out support.

From this rostrum, allow me to repeat what the Secretary-General of the United Nations said in the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal. We believe that his words convey the profound meaning of the organic unity that governs the mutual development of sport and peace:

"The Olympic Ideal is a hymn to tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. It is an invitation to competition, but competition with respect for others. In its way, Olympism is a school for democracy. In other words, there is a natural link between the ethic of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations."

In conclusion, I would like to call on Member States of the United Nations to do their utmost so that, on the eve of the hundredth anniversary of the revival of the Olympic

Games, we can achieve, to the maximum extent, the realization of the Olympic Ideal, in the interests of peace, security and the harmonious development of humanity.

The Acting President: I now call on Mr. H. A. H. Al-Ni'mah, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations.

Mr. Al-Ni'mah (Qatar) (*interpretation from Arabic*): I am pleased to address this august Assembly during its consideration of agenda item 40, "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal".

I do not believe I would be mistaken in saying that the Assembly discusses this item at this session in response to the needs of humanity in the time of detente and openness we now witness. I do not believe I would be mistaken either in saying that such discussion will inspire young people who excel in sport and make it possible to devise the best means of developing the objectives of the Olympic Movement and afford the United Nations an opportunity to lay down those necessary foundations and to study those concepts that would make it possible to formulate sports programmes which serve the cause of peace, security and stability in the world.

The objectives of the Olympic Movement with all its activities are organically linked to the objectives of the United Nations. There is therefore a need to consolidate relations between the International Olympic Committee and this Organization in order to achieve the common objectives called for by the United Nations Charter and the Olympic Charter alike. This can be achieved only by focusing on devising the necessary means and formulating the programmes needed to educate the youth of the world in the virtues of peace and the values of tolerance. In addition, the youth of the world, while building their physical strength, must be imbued with the Olympic spirit of cooperation and understanding and the renunciation of discrimination and unhealthy rivalry. This, in turn, will lead to the achievement of the desired cooperation in sports relations between Member States and orient those relations towards the better and the truly perfect within the context of honest sports competitiveness upon which the Olympic Movement is based.

This would strengthen the objectives of the United Nations system and ensure the equality of rights between nations. In those rights, the promotion of sport and the Olympic spirit constitutes a vital component that makes

it possible to achieve the lofty human objectives of both Organizations.

Proceeding from this, the State of Qatar, under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamd Al Thani, has participated in all international efforts aimed at the establishment of a prosperous international community in which youth enjoy the lofty values of sport and the Olympic spirit.

Qatar has also taken a keen interest in keeping up with developments in the field of sports and thus created a sports infrastructure that allows its generations to enjoy sport and gives them assistance in their development efforts and in their creative efforts to build a better future based on social development and the promotion of fruitful, human creativity.

In order to achieve such objectives and to realize the values of the Olympic Movement so as to respond to the needs of the youth in my country, Qatar continues to build sports facilities according to Olympic specifications. This enabled it to host the World Cup for Youth (FIFA) and the 1994 Soccer Finals for Asia in the World Cup. It also enabled Qatar to make great achievements in its track and field teams. Our delegations have participated in many international games and Qatar hopes to host Olympic competitions.

The State of Qatar continues to build youth hostels in various cities in order to achieve the lofty Olympic goals.

The international authority for youth and sport in Qatar continues to make various efforts to develop cooperation between our youth and the youth of the rest of the world in order to revive the Olympic values which call for the establishment of links of friendship, cooperation and solidarity amongst peoples. We believe that the promotion of such values is a means for the establishment of a better future for mankind in a new world where peoples have more confidence in their own identity and their cultural specificity and in which they continue their human march, inspired by the Olympic ideal, which expresses the convergence of all human wills in order to continue the mutual relations of understanding and cooperation and in which the healthy competitiveness of sport would contribute to the building of a world of values, a world of love, a world of friendship, a world that embraces the hopes of mankind in the best possible manner and that expresses the desired human future which will be better, more beautiful and bright.

For all these reasons, the State of Qatar has joined in sponsoring the draft resolution before the Assembly and hopes that you will support it.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

Before we take action on the draft resolution, I should like to announce that the following countries have become cosponsors of draft resolution A/50/L.15: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

With these additional cosponsors we have achieved a record number of cosponsors — to date 161.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/50/L.15.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt this draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/50/L.15 was adopted (resolution 50/13).

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of Italy.

Mr. Busacca (Italy): As announced by the Permanent Representative of Italy at yesterday's meeting, the delegation of Italy wishes to be a cosponsor of the draft resolution just adopted.

The Acting President: That request has been noted.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 40?

It was so decided.

Programme of work

The President in the Chair.

The President: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/INF/50/5/Add.2, which contains a tentative programme of work and schedule of plenary meetings for the rest of November and the month of December. The addendum supersedes document A/INF/50/5/Add.1 and announcements I have made since the issuance of that addendum.

The schedule is being issued to assist delegations in planning their work. For its part, the Secretariat will endeavour to ensure that the relevant documentation will be available to delegations in advance of the discussion of any given agenda item.

The list of speakers for each of the items listed in document A/INF/50/5/Add.2 is now open. I should like to point out that there are still a few agenda items for which no date has been indicated. I will announce the dates for the consideration of those items in due course and sufficiently in advance. I will also keep the Assembly informed of any additions or changes.

As I mentioned to the Assembly in my earlier announcements, I hope to keep close to the schedule so that the Assembly can discharge its responsibilities as effectively and expeditiously as possible. I again appeal to

those representatives submitting draft resolutions to do so sufficiently in advance of the dates fixed for consideration of items in order to give members adequate time to examine them.

I should like to reiterate that additional time is needed for draft resolutions involving changes in the programme of work or additional expenditures, since these will require the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications by the Secretary-General.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee will need adequate time to review the programme budget implications of a draft resolution before the latter can be acted on by the Assembly.

While on the subject of draft resolutions, I should like to remind members that, in view of the number of draft resolutions expected under agenda item 20, entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", and the possible need to hold consultations on them with a view to reaching consensus, the deadline for submission of draft resolutions under agenda item 20 will be Friday, 10 November 1995.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.



General Assembly

Fiftieth Session

53rd

plenary meeting

Wednesday, 8 November 1995, 10 a.m.

New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(a) Election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council

The President: This morning the General Assembly will proceed to the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1995.

The five non-permanent outgoing members are the following: Argentina, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda. These five States cannot be re-elected and therefore their names should not appear on the ballot papers.

Apart from the five permanent members, the Security Council will include in 1996 the following States: Botswana, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia and Italy. The names of those States, therefore, should not appear on the ballot papers.

Of the five non-permanent members which will remain in office in 1996 two are from Africa and Asia, one is from Latin America and the Caribbean and two are from the Group of Western European and Other States.

Consequently, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 1991 A (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, the five non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: three from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe and one from Latin America and the Caribbean. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

In accordance with the established practice, there is an understanding to the effect that, of the three States to be elected from Africa and Asia, two should be from Africa and one from Asia.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected.

In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.



I now call on the representative of South Africa as Chairman of the Group of African States.

Mr. Jele (South Africa): In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of November 1995 I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that the candidatures of Guinea-Bissau and Egypt for election to the two non-permanent seats on the Security Council for the period 1996-1997 were endorsed by the African Group on 22 May 1995 and 31 October 1995 respectively.

The President: I now call on the representative of Brunei Darussalam as Chairman of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. Abdul Momin (Brunei Darussalam): As Chairman of the Group of Asian States for the month of November 1995 I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that the Republic of Korea is the endorsed and sole candidate for election to the non-permanent seat on the Security Council allocated to the Asian region for the term 1996-1997.

The President: The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has asked to speak on a point of order. I now call on that representative.

Mr. Pak Gil Yon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The statement that has just been made by the Chairman of the Asian Group is not accurate. The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has expressed its strong objection to the Asian candidate for the Security Council. South Korea's membership of the Council would not contribute to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, as the Korean Peninsula is still in a state of war.

My delegation requests Member States to pay serious attention to the deteriorating situation on the Korean Peninsula as a consequence of meaningless competition for a Security Council seat.

The President: I now call on the representative of Albania as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Kulla (Albania): In my capacity as Chairman of the Eastern European Group for the current month, I have the honour to inform the General Assembly that the Group has not been in a position to endorse one candidate from the Group for the non-permanent Security Council seat allocated to it for the term 1996-1997.

Furthermore, I have the honour to inform the Assembly that there are two candidates from the Group — Albania and Poland.

The President: I now call on the representative of Bolivia as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Camacho Omiste (Bolivia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): In my capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group for the month of November, I wish to inform the General Assembly that the Group has endorsed the candidature of Chile for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 1996-1997.

The President: I now call on the representative of Albania in his national capacity.

Mr. Kulla (Albania): I have the honour to introduce the candidature of the Republic of Albania for the non-permanent seat on the Security Council allocated to the Eastern European Group for the term 1996-1997.

The Charter of the United Nations stipulates that, in electing non-permanent members of the Security Council, the General Assembly will pay due regard to the contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and also to equitable geographical distribution. My country meets these criteria required by this supreme document of the United Nations. Albania has respected the Charter and has actively cooperated with the Organization. It has faithfully implemented the resolutions of the General Assembly and those of the Security Council. It has joined in all constructive initiatives in favour of international peace and security and has been a factor for stability in its region by promoting good-neighbourliness.

Albania and the Albanians endeavour to ensure that dialogue and understanding are the first and the main means of resolving conflicts. My country is on the list of States that contribute personnel to United Nations peace-keeping operations, and we have taken measures to participate further therein.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Albania has discharged its financial obligations to the Organization in respect of both the regular budget and the peace-keeping operations.

The election of Albania would also serve to achieve a more equitable geographical distribution in the

membership of the Security Council. It is some years since any country from our subregion has served on the Council. I should like to stress that during the 40 years of its membership of the United Nations — since 1955 — Albania has never served on the Council.

Expressing my country's readiness to continue on its path of contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, I assure the Assembly that Albania is ready to play its role in the Council, fully aware of the responsibilities that rest on a non-permanent member of this main organ of the United Nations.

Finally, I express the hope that Member States will vote for the candidature of Albania.

The President: I now call on the representative of Benin.

Mr. Mongbe (Benin) (*interpretation from French*): I have the honour to reconfirm to the Assembly the decision of the Government of Benin, already conveyed on various occasions by correspondence, to present Benin as a candidate for one of the non-permanent Security Council seats allocated to Africa for the biennium 1996-1997.

The President: I now call on the representative of Poland.

Mr. Wlosowicz (Poland): I wish to confirm that Poland is a candidate for a Security Council seat for the term 1996-1997.

I should like to emphasize that six years ago we expressed our willingness to serve on the Council during the period 1996-1997, and we started our campaign a couple of years ago. I have extensively presented our candidature in meetings with Permanent Representatives here, pointing out our involvement in United Nations activities in different fields, including peace-keeping operations, to which we are among the largest contributors.

Let me just mention that this time, in a way, will be the first time for Poland in the Security Council. Although we already served on the Council, nevertheless it was under totally different political circumstances. This time, for the first time in the history of the United Nations and the history of Poland, we will have a chance to speak with our own voice, and we want to use it for the benefit of the

community of States. This is why we count on the support of the membership of the United Nations.

The President: I now call on the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Elaraby (Egypt): I would just like to make reference to the statement made a few moments ago by the Ambassador of South Africa in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of November. I would like also to refer to the letter received by you, Sir, on 31 October from the representative of Sierra Leone in his capacity as Chairman of the African Group for the month of October, where he conveyed to you that the African Group met at the ambassadorial level and endorsed the candidature of Egypt for the non-permanent seat allocated to North Africa.

The President: In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the election by secret ballot, taking into account the statements made by the representatives of the different delegations.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B" and "C" will now be distributed.

I request representatives to use only those ballot papers that have been distributed and to write on them the names of the five States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing the names of more States from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names, on a ballot paper, of Member States that do not belong to that region will not be counted.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan), Mr. Ok (Cambodia) and Mrs. Onanga (Gabon) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 12 noon.

The President: The result of the voting for the election of five non-permanent members of the Security Council is as follows:

Group A — African and Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	177
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	177
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	177
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	

Egypt	159
Republic of Korea	156
Guinea-Bissau	128
Benin	60
Ghana	1
Tunisia	1

Group B — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	177
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	176
Abstentions:	0
Numbers of Members voting:	176
Required two-thirds majority:	118
Number of votes obtained:	

Poland	128
Albania	48

Group C — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	177
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	176
Abstentions:	7
Number of Members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	

Chile	168
Mexico	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, the following States were elected non-permanent members of the Security Council for a two-year period beginning 1 January 1996: Chile, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Poland and the Republic of Korea.

The President: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Security Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

That concludes our consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 15.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

**General Assembly**

Fiftieth Session

54th plenary meetingThursday, 9 November 1995, 10.30 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Freitas do Amaral (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 45 (continued)

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/499)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/50/482)

Draft resolution (A/50/L.17)

The President: In connection with the item before the Assembly, I want to inform members that the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the third report of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala is contained in document A/50/482.

I call on the representative of Nicaragua to introduce draft resolution A/50/L.17.

Mr. Pallais Arana (Nicaragua) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I am honoured, on behalf of the delegations of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua, to open the debate on the item "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in

fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

Only a few years ago, Central America was a region overwhelmed by social upheaval, war, authoritarianism and the dominance of military might over civil society.

Only a few years ago, our region was a focus of the East-West conflict, and much of the cooperation it received from outside and a large proportion of our national budgets were earmarked for military expenditures in the region. This had the effect of deepening military conflict and bringing about economic and social decline.

Just a few years ago, we, and perhaps many of the other members here, were sceptical about the possibility of Central America enjoying democracy, peace and freedom on the road to sustainable development that proclaimed the dignity of the human being as one of its main objectives.

Today we are deeply gratified to see that the efforts that we in Central America and the international community have made to build a new Central America have dispelled this scepticism. Today we are convinced that the enormous efforts invested in finding a solution to the crisis in Central America have not been in vain, nor are we back where we started, with another conflict about to ignite.



Throughout the gradual transition, the summit meetings of the Central American Presidents have institutionalized the process of regional integration and have given concrete form to the commitments undertaken in Esquipulas II, in which Central America pledged to struggle for peace and eradicate war, to ensure that dialogue prevailed over violence and reason over rancour, to give impetus to real democratic processes, and to promote justice and respect for human rights.

Today we can say that in the 1990s, with the end of the cold war and the breakdown of totalitarianism, an unprecedented opportunity presented itself to change the course of history and, for the first time, to secure the values of a democratic, just, peaceful, civil and reconciled society, with Governments brought to power by the freely expressed will of the people.

When, in December 1990, the Central American Presidents declared Central America a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, there was also some scepticism about that. Nevertheless, it was not simply a rhetorical declaration. At that time, we were conscious and fully understood that we were undertaking an ambitious, far-reaching and detailed project.

In considering the question of Central America, the General Assembly has been witness to the developments in the situation in our subregion. The international community has been able to ascertain through its own experience and at various summits that the Central American Presidents have signed agreements that take account of the interdependence of peace, development and democracy.

The new integration of Central America is a fundamental and indispensable instrument for regional development and hence for ensuring peace, security and democracy in our region. In this context, the main priorities in Central America have been defined, not only from the political and economic but also from the social standpoint. Today Central America has defined its new regional strategy in the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America. This new strategy was agreed upon in the Declaration of Guacimo approved in Costa Rica in August 1994 and the document signed at the Managua Environment Summit in October 1994, and at the International Conference on Peace and Development, held a few days later in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

We think we should also bring to the Assembly's attention the signing at the sixteenth meeting of Central American Presidents, held in El Salvador in March 1995,

of the Treaty on Central American Social Integration, which, as an integral part of the new Central American strategy, is aimed at giving priority to social matters so as to ensure sustainable human development.

As a complement to the legal bases and values of the integration process in the new Central America, the Central American Presidents have proposed to discuss at the impending summit, to be held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, an agreement on democratic security — namely, security in its integral sense — an agreement based on the conviction that full and effective democracy is the best means for promoting trust between nations and citizens.

The new principles of regional integration are based on respect for life in all its forms; constant improvements in the quality of life; respect for the vitality and diversity of our land; peace, participatory democracy; respect for and the promotion and protection of human rights, and respect for the multiculturalism and ethnic diversity of our peoples; the economic integration of our region with the rest of the world; and a responsibility that spans generations for sustainable development.

Within this new plan for regional integration, the new Central American Integration System (SICA) is the basic framework for such integration, as a means to harmonize efforts in the economic, social, cultural and political development spheres in Central America in order to consolidate the interdependence of democracy, security and development, inseparable elements of a new pattern of Central American security. For this, Central America wishes to thank the General Assembly for granting observer status to the Central American Integration System (SICA) on 12 October 1995.

In our efforts to ensure peace and sustainable development in our region, we can say that in Central America confrontation and military solutions to conflicts are a thing of the past. We believe in the application of the principle of the peaceful solution of disputes, in dialogue and in negotiation. Central America favours and supports international law. In this spirit, Central America supports the good-offices role of the Secretary-General and the development of United Nations peace-keeping operations within the framework of the Agenda for Peace.

An example of this is the work of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the

Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), which, according to the Secretary-General's reports, has witnessed the agreements reached by the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) on matters of human rights, indigenous populations, socio-economic matters and the agrarian situation. We are certain that the Guatemalan people will be equal to the task demanded by the times and that the negotiating process in which they are involved will be successful.

In El Salvador, the process initiated as a result of the peace agreements between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional is still moving forward, and its success has contributed to the progress in the transition the country is experiencing. We are pleased with the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), which shows support for the efforts the Government of El Salvador and society at large are making to finalize the outstanding aspects of the peace agreements.

In Nicaragua, the experience of the support group made up of Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, in accordance with resolutions 48/161 and 49/137, has shown that the United Nations is able to take innovative initiatives to support the processes of transition to peace, democracy and development; this is shown also by the adequate levels of technical and financial support given to our country in the preparation of a strategy for national development.

At the International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies, held in Austria in June 1995, it was stated that there must be a broad response to a country's needs in consolidating peace after a conflict. This was a particular challenge for the United Nations system, whose main objective is the integration of activities much more than the simple coordination of activities. At that Colloquium, emphasis was placed on giving a human face to the process, as well as on the situation and the standards of living of peoples whose lives had been devastated by the war and who had had great expectations of a "peace dividend".

Central America can only agree with those observations, since in the past the concept of peace did not have an integral characteristic nor did it have the dimension and scope it now has; it was limited, at various times, to the ending of conflicts.

The Secretary-General, by introducing in his Agenda for Peace the new element of the consolidation of peace after conflicts, has brought an important critical vision to the global framework of United Nations activities for peace. By introducing this new concept, he has broken the old model that limited United Nations activities to the mere cessation of hostilities and the ending of armed confrontations.

As the Secretary-General has stated, it is now a question of dealing with the very causes of the conflict and not merely with their superficial manifestations. We must now put an end to the deeper roots of crises — economic despair, social injustice and political oppression.

Once again, Central America bears witness to the fact that these concepts can become a reality. Central America is convinced that our region offers the conditions necessary to make it a model for the solution of conflicts — solutions by which peace and democracy are consolidated through integral developments and through political settlements that include the elements necessary for establishing the interdependency of "An Agenda for Peace" and an "An Agenda for Development". This task has not yet been concluded.

Central America feels that just as the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) and the Economic Cooperation Plan for Central America (PEC) served as an example to be applied in other situations, Central America will also be a successful example of what the United Nations can do, with the support of the international community and while respecting the sovereignty and independence of States, in the field of consolidating peace and using preventive diplomacy to end conflicts.

International assistance and cooperation for consolidating peace and facilitating development in support of the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America — the subject of the Secretary-General's report in document A/50/534 — provides us with an adequate framework for the United Nations and the international community to continue to cooperate with Central America.

To conclude, we wish to acknowledge once again that on the road we have travelled we have not been alone and that the contribution of the United Nations, the international community and, in particular, those

countries that have constantly supported us, has been essential in consolidating peace in our region.

In presenting the draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.17, we wish to direct the Assembly's attention to the new strategy for sustainable development in Central America, to the provision of support for the peace process in Guatemala, to the consolidation of peace in El Salvador and to the economic and social reconstruction of Nicaragua, as well as to Nicaragua's request for observers for the electoral process in 1996. At the same time, we wish to bring the Assembly up to date on the most recent efforts undertaken by Central America in the peace and regional integration processes.

We have gone most of the way, and yet much remains to be done to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. We insist on the need to overcome extreme poverty, for which greater efforts are required. We hope that in this task the international community and the United Nations will continue their cooperation with Central America and that the draft resolution that we have submitted will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Albin (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mexico has very close and fruitful relations with the countries of Central America. We are bound not only geographically but also by close historical and cultural ties. Central America has always been of prime importance in the international affairs of my country. We have followed with particular attention the positive developments which have taken place in the region in recent years, and we welcome the determined efforts of the countries in the region to strengthen their institutions and to achieve firm and lasting peace.

The signing in Mexico City by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Nacional Revolucionaria Guatemalteca (UNRG) of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of the Indigenous People, and the negotiations to conclude an agreement on socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation constitute very important progress in the peace process, and they deserve the international community's support.

Given the importance of the present electoral process in that country, we also welcome the Contadora Declaration signed by the Guatemalan political forces last August in which a commitment was made to ensure that the Government that resulted from the elections would respect the agreements negotiated to date by the present Government and the UNRG.

The extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) last September is a clear expression of the international community's continuing political support of the peace process in Guatemala. The Mission's work has been very positive. It is widely recognized and respected in Guatemalan society. MINUGUA must continue to have the capacity and the facilities to fulfil the mandate given it and must continue to contribute to strengthening the national institutions and entities entrusted with promoting and protecting human rights in Guatemala. We are confident that the necessary measures will be taken to apply the Mission's recommendations.

Peace is an essential component in confronting economic and social challenges. Dialogue and negotiation are excellent mechanisms for achieving this end. We urge the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (UNRG) to redouble their efforts and to demonstrate their political will to accelerate negotiations. The speedy conclusion of an agreement on a firm and lasting peace is in the best interest of both parties, of Guatemala and of the United Nations.

Exceptional progress has been made in El Salvador. The peace process is proof today of the political possibilities that open up when the will of the parties exists. It is also the successful result of international support for the Salvadoran people's efforts. After years of violence and uncertainty, El Salvador is today in the stage of consolidating the peace process; of building and strengthening its political, economic and social institutions; and of perfecting its structures so that, through dialogue, it can harness the plurality and the differences inherent in all contemporary societies.

The international community, through the United Nations, is fully committed to continue to support El Salvador in its consolidation of a lasting and durable peace. The international community's commitment to peace, stability and development in that country was recently reaffirmed by the extension of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL).

Mexico appreciates the work done by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in El Salvador through MINUSAL. We recognize the Salvadoran Government's commitment to completing the implementation of all pending matters of the peace

agreement and we encourage it to persist with this objective.

We are convinced that progress in political and institutional areas in Central America will be achieved only if it is accompanied by similar progress in the area of economic development, as well as by a decisive endorsement of the reconstruction of the social fabric of those nations.

We are well aware of the efforts made by the Nicaraguan people to counteract the consequences of war and natural disasters. We consider the support given by the international community to Nicaragua for economic and social reconstruction to be of particular importance. Mexico will continue to participate in the Nicaragua Support Group and in bilateral cooperation.

The international community's support for Central America must be strengthened now that the countries have taken decisive steps to attain peace. Central America requires financial resources and technical support to rebuild and consolidate political, economic and social institutions.

Mexico will continue to fulfil its commitment to contribute to a lasting peace and to the development of the region. We will do this in a most positive spirit in the areas decided on by the Central Americans themselves.

Mr. Murayama (Japan): It is recalled that the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) was established in 1991 to help guide El Salvador towards the creation of a society in which democratic order, the rule of law and respect for human rights would prevail. It successfully completed its tasks this past April. Looking back at the history of United Nations peace-keeping operations in Central America, beginning in 1989 with the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and followed in 1990 by the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Electoral Process in Nicaragua (ONUVEN), both of which were in Nicaragua, and then by ONUSAL in El Salvador, I believe we can confidently proclaim them to have been enormously successful.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay high tribute to the peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua, whose strength of will and indomitable spirit made the ideals of peace and democracy a reality in their societies. Let me also commend the various United Nations organs and agencies for their innovative and very effective efforts to fulfil their important mandates.

In an effort to build upon the success of peace-keeping operations following the completion of their mandates, the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Central American countries agreed at the United Nations Headquarters this September to establish a Japan-Central America forum to promote dialogue and cooperation on a range of issues in political, economic and cultural areas. Japan hopes that the forum, to be convened once a year, will help it gain a greater understanding of the real needs of the region so as to ensure that its cooperative efforts are as effective as possible.

As I mentioned earlier, thanks to the enthusiasm of its people and the assistance of the United Nations, El Salvador has continued to make progress in building a democratic society, particularly since the successful general election that was held there last year. This is not to say, however, that the implementation of the peace agreements has not been fraught with problems and delays. We have yet to see, for example, the full deployment of the National Civil Police and the complete demobilization of the National Police. Nor has the redistribution of land among the former combatants been finalized.

In this context, Japan strongly supports the efforts of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL), which, under the able leadership of Mr. Enrique ter Horst, commenced its work this past May to follow up the international peace-keeping effort in El Salvador. I should like to emphasize on this occasion that the valiant people of El Salvador need and deserve continued assistance from the international community as they rebuild their country. Japan, for one, is providing ever greater support for that effort. It does so in the conviction that through their unwavering commitment to peace and democratic principles, the people of El Salvador will demonstrate to the international community that the concept of peace-building is in fact a viable one.

The vigilant attention and consistent efforts of the international community are required in other parts of the region as well. I should like in particular to touch upon the situation in Guatemala, which has seen the longest conflict in Central America's history.

Negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) are being conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. While progress in those talks has been uneven, we are encouraged by the establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human

Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), and by the signing of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous People. The presidential-election campaign is now entering its final stage. In just a few days, on Sunday, 12 November, the election will finally be held. It will represent the culmination of patient and protracted efforts over the past 30 years of all the parties concerned.

In view of the significance of this election, Japan has decided to contribute a grant of \$100,000 to the Organization of American States (OAS) to be used for election-monitoring purposes. It will also participate in monitoring activities, coordinating its efforts with OAS. It is Japan's earnest hope that this election will create an atmosphere that will be conducive to further and speedy progress in the negotiations so that a final peace agreement may be concluded and ready for signing early in 1996.

Japan highly commends the United Nations, and particularly MINUGUA, as well as the members of the Secretary-General's Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process, without whose efforts such progress would not be possible.

I would be less than candid if I did not acknowledge the fact that numerous obstacles remain on the path to peace and democracy in Central America. But we must not be discouraged. Rather, we should redouble our efforts to overcome these problems by combining peace-keeping and peace-building activities in new and creative ways.

It is in this context that Japan is extending various kinds of medium- and long-term cooperation to the countries of Central America, including yen loans, general grant aid and technical assistance. It has also responded promptly and generously to the need for emergency relief in the wake of natural disasters that have occurred in the region. Should any new emergency arise, Japan stands ready to provide assistance, in the belief that its assistance not only facilitates economic development and provides humanitarian relief, but that it helps to advance the peace process and ensures that any progress will be irreversible.

I wish to conclude my remarks today with a word of gratitude to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for the indispensable role he has played in the struggle to restore peace and stability throughout Central America. The coordination of United Nations efforts with the initiatives of like-minded countries in the region has demonstrated new ways in which peace-keeping and peace-

building may be effectively combined and has provided a model for future endeavours in this area. I should therefore like to urge the United Nations to continue to pursue its innovative peace-building activities in the region, for I believe that through its experiences in Central America it is gaining valuable lessons for the maintenance of peace and security in other parts of the world.

Mr. Fedotov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Russian Federation notes with satisfaction that after many years of armed conflict and instability Central America is today at the stage of consolidating the peace process, strengthening democratic institutions and economic revival. Despite considerable difficulties, the process of national reconciliation and democratization in the Central American region is, on the whole, proceeding successfully and has already led to a considerable relaxation of tension there.

The tangible progress achieved in Central America has been made possible to a large extent by the efforts of the international community and, first and foremost, by those of the United Nations. We believe that the peacemaking experience gained in Central America deserves careful study and that it should be applied in other parts of the world.

The Russian Federation takes a positive view of the activities of the United Nations missions in El Salvador and Guatemala and supported the further extension of their mandates. We welcome the constructive cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) and other regional organizations on this question.

The Russian Federation is pleased and gratified by the success of the peace process in El Salvador. The experience of the 45-month multipurpose peace-keeping operation has shown that tolerance and perseverance in seeking paths to settlement and reaching agreements can succeed in resolving the most complex and protracted conflicts — provided, of course, that the parties involved genuinely desire to achieve a durable peace.

We note the generally constructive course of implementation of the Chapultepec Peace Agreement, which has furthered the trend towards a logical stabilization of the situation in El Salvador. At the same time, certain unresolved problems remain. The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the fact that a comprehensive approach to post-conflict peace-building

is now required in El Salvador, with close cooperation between El Salvador and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), other United Nations specialized agencies and international financial institutions.

Notwithstanding the remaining complexities and the recurrent outbreaks of violence recently seen in Guatemala, the signature by the Government and the leadership of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) of a whole series of agreements has created a real basis for success in achieving a peaceful settlement in the near future in that country. The most important requirements for further progress are the strict compliance of both parties with the obligations they have already entered into and the taking of decisive and effective steps to ensure the protection of human rights, and in particular the safety of the civilian population. We hope that on the basis of the agreements reached, and with mutual goodwill, the Government and the URNG will do everything possible to reach specific agreements shortly on the unresolved issues that remain. In this connection we call upon both parties to complete the process of national reconciliation by signing the relevant documents during the term of the present administration — that is, prior to January 1996.

We welcome the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to consolidate civil peace and to improve the socio-economic situation in the country. The resolution of the recent political differences between the executive and legislative authorities has demonstrated the country's desire and ability to find solutions to the remaining problems. The important point now is to ensure that all necessary conditions are met for the general elections to be held in Nicaragua in accordance with the time-table set out in the Constitution, which will further enhance the regular evolution of the democratization process.

The Russian Federation welcomes the positive impact on the situation in Central America of the growing political and economic cooperation between the countries of the subregion within the framework of the Central American Integration System, and the new momentum given it by the decision to meet in October of this year at Costa del Sol, El Salvador. The Russian Federation supported the proposal that the Central American Integration System be granted observer status in the General Assembly and was one of the sponsors of the resolution concerned.

At the same time, it should be noted that the stabilization process in the subregion is still proceeding at an uneven pace. Many of the social and economic problems that were formerly the cause of conflicts remain

to be solved, and there is evidence of serious political difficulties and of deliberate resistance on the part of certain radical groups. The world community must continue to afford effective assistance to the Central American countries in averting new outbreaks of tension, in ensuring that the processes of national reconciliation in the subregion are irreversible by creating solid democratic bases for State structures, in strengthening the climate of political tolerance, in the strict observance of human rights, and in their economic recovery.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly put forward initiatives designed to strengthen international support for these processes in Central America. We have stated our readiness to participate in the demining of former war zones being carried out in the Central American States under the auspices of OAS. The Russian Federation is prepared to continue to provide assistance in the final settlement of the problems of Central America and to cooperate actively to that end with the countries of the subregion and with all interested extra-regional States. We also favour the further strengthening of the United Nations role in that peacemaking process.

The Russian delegation is grateful to the representative of Nicaragua for having introduced the draft resolution (A/50/L.17) under the agenda item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development", and we are prepared to consider it favourably.

Mr. Laclaustra (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union is following with great interest the situation in Central America and is pleased with the progress that that American region is making year by year towards the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development, so that it can emerge as an example of harmony and integration for the rest of the international community.

The peace initiative of Esquipulas, advanced in 1987, paved the way for mediation processes that made it possible to go about resolving the cruel armed conflicts that devastated various countries of the region. The participation of the international community, through the significant presence of the United Nations and the useful

work of the mechanism of the Group of Friends, has facilitated, and continues to facilitate, a positive outcome of the peace processes.

Within the framework of the region, the European Union welcomes the positive evaluation, contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/50/499) of 3 October 1995, of the work of the Support Group for Nicaragua, in which three members of the Union participate. Its task is to follow Nicaragua's transition and to support the process of internal consensus-building, with a view to economic and social development. The elections of October 1996 will be a new and important stage in the consolidation of democracy and the foundations of Nicaragua's reconstruction.

Notwithstanding the achievements made, important measures still need to be adopted in order to consolidate the peace processes in Guatemala and El Salvador.

The elections to be held next 12 November in Guatemala, with the participation of all the political forces and in the spirit of the recent Contadora Declaration, will enable the people of Guatemala to join in the movement of peace, democracy and development that Central America is experiencing. States members of the European Union are sending observers to the elections, and those observers will work in conjunction with the mission of the United Nations and the mission of the Organization of American States.

In the statement made by its Presidency on 12 October, the European Union strongly condemned the tragic events that took place on 5 October in the town of Chisec, Department of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, and demanded that there be an immediate investigation and that those responsible be punished. The European Union appreciates the measures announced by the President of the Republic and is following very closely the investigation being carried out by the United Nations in respect of those events.

The European Union considers that full respect of the population's human rights is essential for the participation of all the people of Guatemala in the elections and for the success of the peace process. Particularly in the rural areas, this means that the Voluntary Civil Defence Committees must refrain from any action that might jeopardize the climate of peace that is necessary for the successful holding of the elections.

The General Assembly recently extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of

Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for an additional period of six months, until 18 March 1996. The European Union considers that, thanks to the mediation efforts and the presence of MINUGUA on the ground, the United Nations is contributing actively and positively to the Guatemalan peace process, helping and encouraging the parties to reach a firm and lasting peace, through national reconciliation, thus making it possible to lay the foundations of democracy and development in a climate of liberty and justice. The European Union urges both parties to comply with their commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and to implement MINUGUA's recommendations.

Just a few days ago, on 31 October 1995, the General Assembly took another important decision, also supported by the European Union: it adopted the Secretary-General's proposal to extend the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) for six months. We welcome the cooperation between MINUSAL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the consolidation of the Peace Accords, and we hope that it will be further strengthened during the coming months. As the process proceeds, El Salvador will need to give more emphasis to its long-term development.

The European Union considers this necessary not only because of the important political message of encouragement this decision sends to El Salvador, but also because we are concerned that some elements of the Peace Accords are not being fully implemented and others have been considerably delayed. Swifter progress is needed to avoid undermining the peace process and causing political and social instability.

Even though the overall degree of implementation of the Peace Accords is satisfactory, the final implementation of some very important aspects of the consolidation of peace are still pending, such as the programmes of human settlements and land transfer, as are the reforms necessary in public security and the institutional development of the National Civil Police and the National Public Security Academy, institutions to which the European Union is providing technical and financial assistance.

Also pending is the implementation of recommendations of the Commission on the Truth and the Joint Group relating to reforms in the judicial system

as well as in the electoral field, the speedy implementation of which is essential so that they can be applicable in the coming elections. This would give the democratic system greater credibility.

The European Union has considered the report (A/50/499) of the Secretary-General of 3 October 1995 on the situation in Central America. As Central America advances towards the consolidation and reinforcement of its democratic institutions, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are proving to be appropriate forums for considering the evolution of the region. In this way the various cooperation and integration mechanisms have an opportunity to prove their validity for the benefit of the peoples in the region.

In this context, we want to encourage the Secretary-General to continue to coordinate and stimulate all United Nations organs to assist, through the various ongoing programmes, in the economic and social development of Central America and to support the important initiatives for greater integration being promoted by the countries of the region. In that connection, we take a positive view of the General Assembly's recent granting of observer status to the Central American Integration System.

Of the many initiatives taken, we would like to underline two that we consider particularly important and that show a sincere will for Central American integration.

First, we wish to note the efforts made by the Central American countries with a view to a coherent strategy of development, which is given form in the Alliance for Sustainable Development, with an emphasis on collective efforts to reduce poverty in the isthmus through social integration, human development, investment in human resources and environmental protection.

Secondly, in a region that has suffered years of military tensions, the elaboration of an agreement on regional security issues is commendable. This is currently under discussion, the aim being to define a security model that would make use of democratic institutions to find comprehensive and peaceful solutions to the problems of the region. This initiative reflects important changes in the armed forces, significant changes that put us on the right path to defining a new model for regional defence that respects human rights and strengthens the rule of law and the comprehensive development of human beings and society.

The European Union wishes to reaffirm its determination to continue to support the Central American integration process and the new efforts aimed at stimulating the comprehensive development of the region.

The eleventh annual Ministerial Conference on political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Union and the States of the San José Group was held in Panama City in February 1995. The participants in the Conference welcomed the progress made in the peace process, in the consolidation of democracy and respect for human rights and in the development and integration of the Central American region. They also stressed the positive effect on the process of 10 years of exceptionally fruitful dialogue between the two regions.

During the months leading up to the Conference, the two sides had a number of contacts and agreed on the necessity to adapt the substance and format of the San José dialogue to the new circumstances created by the profound changes of recent years, both in the European Union and in Central America. The eleventh San José Conference, representing a major step in that direction, was devoted to three topics: sustainable development in Central America, regional integration and the integration of Central America in the international economy and, finally, the future of relations between Central America and the European Union.

The San José dialogue has proved to be a lively mechanism of exchange and mutual understanding between the European Union and the countries of Central America. This dialogue, given the important changes in the region, is serving to reorient and strengthen cooperation with Central America, which will enable us to face together with even greater vitality the challenges of the years to come. The areas we consider particularly important have to do with consolidating the rule of law, strengthening democratic mechanisms, deepening social stabilization and harmoniously introducing the Central American countries into the international economy. In this context, I would like to recall that the European Union and its member States as a whole constitute the primary donor to the cause of cooperation in the region.

The European Union trusts that during this session of the General Assembly Central America will be able to secure the ongoing peace processes in order to consolidate achievements in the quest for lasting peace, democracy and development, and in this endeavour it

should enjoy the assistance, solidarity and encouragement of the international community. The European Union will continue to play an active role in this effort.

Mr. Castelli (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation is pleased to speak on agenda item 45, entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development", which is before the Assembly today.

We have studied the report of the Secretary-General on this subject, contained in document A/50/499, and the third report of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), contained in document A/50/482.

We share the Secretary-General's positive outlook, which is based on the prospect of the region's being free of armed conflicts and effecting institutional changes capable of supporting new programmes of social and economic reforms that will make it possible to consolidate sustainable development. We also welcome the international community's support, as manifested in an active endeavour that includes the United Nations system.

With regard to the latter report, we share the concern over the situation of Guatemala and, in accordance with the declaration of the most recent Ibero-American summit, we support the efforts of its Government and urge the parties to achieve a solid and lasting peace. My country wishes to reiterate its resolute policy of encouragement for the Guatemalan peace process, which has been aptly reflected in our co-sponsorship of resolution 48/267, establishing MINUGUA, and, more recently, of resolution 49/236 B, extending its mandate for six months.

The Central American region is not exempt from the global tendencies emerging since the end of the cold war. It is striving for active regionalization and the consolidation of societies in which peace reigns, freedom is a reality, democracy is the norm and sustainable economic and social development are a real possibility. Its Governments are aware that the search for these values will contribute to the consolidation of a situation of well-being and stability in the region.

For its part, the international community takes note that the Central American region is overcoming a difficult

period of internal conflict and entering a new era of institutional reconstruction and economic development. The consolidation of this process calls for solidarity and cooperation, which can be fuelled by financial support, both multilateral and bilateral. Only in this way will it be possible to give impetus to investment and, as a result, growth.

In the context of assistance, it would be particularly desirable to pour in the economic and technical assistance that will be required to face the difficult situations that armed conflicts always leave in their wake.

My country has given concrete proof of its clear commitment to this philosophy, both in the peace processes and in initiatives such as the signing of technical-cooperation agreements in the areas of human resources, agriculture, forest management, fishing and energy, as well as in the renegotiation of external debt — especially public debt. In the conviction that recovery and economic development are essential conditions for the consolidation of peace and democracy in this region, my country has allotted for Central America 46 per cent of the total amount for projects agreed upon through the Argentine fund for horizontal cooperation, making Central America the fund's principal beneficiary worldwide.

We have made concrete contributions to both military and civilian participation in the peace-keeping operations deployed in the region, as well as in the areas of human rights and electoral assistance.

In this spirit, we wish to renew our commitment to the Central American region, whose peoples are such close kin of our own.

Mr. Fowler (Canada): Canada values highly the work of the United Nations in assisting the peoples and Governments of Central America in achieving democracy and development. The respect in which the Organization is held in Central America has allowed it to assist the Governments and peoples of Central America to achieve important objectives. Over the last 10 years Canada has supported all of the United Nations initiatives, usually in direct and material ways. We have contributed military and police personnel to the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) and the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in

Guatemala (MINUGUA). Today, I should like to comment briefly on the Central American peace process, particularly those aspects raised by the Secretary-General in his recent reports under agenda item 45.

We recognize the important progress that has been made in the implementation of the El Salvador peace accords with the assistance of ONUSAL and, since May of this year, of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL). The Secretary-General recently advised us that there was still important work for MINUSAL to do in the verification of the implementation of the remaining commitments. On this basis, Canada co-sponsored resolution A/50/7, approving its intention to extend MINUSAL for a further six months. We believe, however, that MINUSAL must not be extended indefinitely, and we encourage the Government of El Salvador to redouble its efforts to ensure the prompt, transparent and thorough implementation of its commitments under the peace accords.

During the last two years, Canada has participated in the Nicaragua Support Group. We think that this new and very low-cost form of preventive diplomacy has been useful in assisting the Government and people of Nicaragua in conducting a dialogue on critical economic and political issues.

Canada is encouraged by the achievements to date in the Guatemala peace process, but we remain concerned by the slow rate of progress towards a final peace accord. We urge the parties involved in the peace negotiations under the mediation of the United Nations to maintain their commitment and their efforts to advance the process. This will require sufficient flexibility on both sides. It is significant that Guatemala's major political parties have indicated their willingness to implement the accords already signed and to continue the process.

We have read carefully the three reports of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala on the human rights situation in that country. The positive steps and attitudes reported in the second report were important and encouraging for the peace process in Guatemala. On the other hand, the situation reported in MINUGUA's third report and the subsequent massacre at Xaman, in Alta Verapaz, give rise to renewed concern. We urge the Government of Guatemala and other concerned parties to consider seriously the recommendations of MINUGUA and to work hard to give them effect, particularly with regard to the problem of impunity. For its part, Canada will

continue to support MINUGUA and the peace negotiations.

(spoke in French)

One of the most encouraging developments in Central America is the continuing trend towards political and institutional cooperation and economic integration reported to us by the Secretary-General. One of the fruits of this process, the Alliance for Sustainable Development, can serve Central Americans as an effective tool in their pursuit of economic and social development and of integration with the global economy. During his meeting with the Central American leaders in San José in January 1995, Prime Minister Chrétien demonstrated his support for the Alliance and other Central American initiatives towards regional cooperation. He has expressed a strong interest in maintaining high-level consultations on this issue.

In the end, the fate of the peace process in Central America lies in the hands of the peoples and Governments of that region. Their achievements and their commitment to peace and to sustainable development are most impressive, but much remains to be done.

I should like to conclude by paying tribute to the efforts towards peace and development in Central America of the Secretary-General and the entire United Nations system. The successes that have been achieved in Central America during the last year owe a great deal to the persistence and hard work of the United Nations.

Canada stands ready to cooperate with the Central American countries and the United Nations in achieving peace and development in this region.

Mr. Bjørn Lian (Norway): The situation in Central America has during the last decade changed from conflict and mistrust to democratization and cooperation. There is reason to congratulate the Central Americans on their accomplishments, but at the same time it remains clear that the challenges these countries face are still formidable. It is therefore paramount that they persevere in their efforts towards further normalization, reconstruction and reconciliation. In these endeavours, they can count on the continued support and solidarity of the international community.

Together with the other members of the group of friends, Norway has been actively encouraging the peace process in Guatemala over the past few years. A final

peace agreement has not yet been reached, but it is appropriate to pay tribute to the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and to the moderator Jean Arnault for their untiring efforts to put an end to an armed conflict which has been exacting its toll from the people of Guatemala for more than 35 years. Several significant partial agreements have been signed since the United Nations gave a new impetus to the negotiations at the beginning of last year, and at this very moment the Government Peace Commission and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) are meeting in Mexico trying to settle the important item of the socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation. Hopefully it will be possible to conclude this partial agreement before the inauguration of the new president in January next year.

While the parties to the conflict meet for a new round of negotiations in Mexico, Guatemala is preparing for elections which hopefully will strengthen the country's democratic institutions. Sectors that traditionally have not taken an active part in the electoral process have on this occasion opted for a more positive approach. The electorate has a wider choice of political alternatives, and the URNG has been encouraging the Guatemalans to take advantage of their right to vote. Their unilateral cease-fire in the two weeks prior to the elections has also been a very constructive measure. It is extremely important that the new president and the major political parties in the new national assembly feel a commitment to the peace process. The Contadora Declaration of August augurs well in that respect, but the victors should be invited to reassure their fellow countrymen and the international community about their favourable attitude after the elections also.

The establishment and deployment of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights (MINUGUA) represents a significant step forward in the peace process. The presence of MINUGUA has given renewed hope to the civilian population that peace, justice, reconstruction and reconciliation may become a reality in Guatemala, but the mission can be a success only if the authorities act sincerely and wholeheartedly on the MINUGUA recommendations.

Norway, for its part, has stepped up considerably its assistance to Guatemala over the past two years, with a projected total in 1995 of roughly \$11 million, which is slightly higher than last year. A contribution to MINUGUA of \$1 million is especially aimed at reforms in the judicial system and translation to Mayan languages and distribution of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Special priority continues to be given to projects

related to democratization and political development and to particularly vulnerable groups, with special emphasis on the indigenous population. Norway has also made a point of establishing good contacts with all relevant actors in the social and political landscape of Guatemala and we have made clear to the negotiating parties that we are prepared to contribute further to specific peace-related needs that may arise during the negotiating process.

The Government Peace Commission and the URNG now seem to have a realistic approach to the peace negotiations. It is imperative that the various sectors of Guatemalan society display the same constructive spirit, including those that may have to renounce some of their privileges in order to create a better tomorrow for all Guatemalans. Peace is a necessary first step before the entire people of Guatemala can join efforts in this noble venture. Massive participation in the elections on Sunday would be encouraging testimony to the fact that the Guatemalans, through peaceful and democratic means, are ready to take their destiny in their own hands. And the United Nations and the Group of Friends will continue to be the firmest allies of a Guatemala that is staking its future on peace and reconciliation.

The signature of the Chapultepec Peace Agreement in El Salvador in 1993 initiated a fruitful process of peace-building in that country to which the United Nations has contributed substantially. For Norway, it has been natural to participate in and contribute to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) and the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) as well as in the training of the new National Civil Police of El Salvador.

Important parts of the Chapultepec Agreement are, however, still not fully accomplished. This is notably the case for such matters as the distribution of land and judicial and electoral reforms. We therefore hope that the Government of El Salvador will take the necessary measures to assure the implementation of the Peace Agreement in letter as well as in spirit.

In its evaluation of the public security sector, MINUSAL is reporting a number of problems in the new National Civil Police as well as in the Police Academy. We believe that a well-organized, independent police force that respects human rights is fundamental for the further consolidation of the peace process in El Salvador. The recommendations and time limits given by MINUSAL in its report should be complied with by the Salvadoran authorities.

The conflict between the Nicaraguan Government and the National Assembly seemed to have been resolved in June this year. The cooperation between the two national institutions can, however, still be improved. Norway would like to see greater stress being laid on the importance of political dialogue to avoid future constitutional crises, and we urge the parties to resolve the remaining problems. Economic and social development is only possible when the political situation is stable, and such stability is the common responsibility of all political parties and institutions in Nicaragua.

Free and democratic elections in 1996 will signify a worthy end to the first transition period after the civil war. Norway hopes that elections will be held as programmed in October next year so that a new President and a new Government can initiate the second stage of the democratic transition in January 1997.

Nicaragua has managed to reduce substantially its commercial foreign debt and bilateral debt. Hopefully, this lessening of the debt burden will improve the economic situation of the country. Nicaragua will, however, still need support from the international community to be able to develop further. Nicaragua is Norway's only programme country in Latin America, and is the most important recipient of Norwegian development assistance on the continent. Bilateral assistance will amount to approximately \$27 million in 1995. We are prepared to maintain the assistance to Nicaragua, but would like to emphasize that international assistance can only be a supplement to national efforts to assure continued positive social and economic progress in the country.

Mr. Laing (Belize): In the same way as the Belize delegation did last year, as a good neighbour we must lend our full support to draft resolution A/50/L.17 on the situation in Central America. We are happy to observe that during the past 12 months our delicate, filigreed isthmus has remained largely stable. In no small measure, this is due to the strenuous efforts of persons of good will in Central America as well as to the labours of the Secretary-General of this Organization.

We are grateful, too, that the flood of displaced persons crossing the subregion's borders for safety and greater prosperity from some areas has been stemmed. Regrettably, from some other areas the tide continues, with serious effects on host countries, including mine.

Yet, overall, we are quite optimistic at the rate of progress in the subregion. Belize continues to participate in

some of the efforts of cooperation in the region, especially vicariously through the development administration of Belize by the Central American offices of some United Nations agencies and through participation in the "San José Process", which has now happily resumed for Belize. We are also enthusiastic participants in the Alliance for Sustainable Development.

However, regrettably, the documentation sometimes does not adequately reflect the fact of our active involvement. I refer to aspects of document A/50/L.17 and of A/50/499.

We are convinced, however, that in due course Belize will take its rightful place as the bridge between the isthmus and the wider Caribbean spaces now epitomized by the Association of Caribbean States. We suggest that Central America's economic future and social upliftment will be enhanced by harnessing the region's competitive advantages in the globalization process. Belize's stable political order and institutions, and its official language, are assets in this regard. We pledge to put them to the full use of the isthmus and of the wider Caribbean.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to inform members that in order to allow the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee to review the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.17, action on the draft resolution will be taken at a later date to be announced in the *Journal*.

Organization of work

The President: I should like to make an announcement concerning agenda item 20, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance".

I have requested His Excellency Mr. Ernst Sucharipa of Austria, who ably coordinated the informal consultations on draft resolutions under this item during the forty-ninth session, to assist me in the same capacity this session, and he has graciously accepted. May I request those delegations intending to submit draft resolutions under agenda item 20 to do so as early as possible in order to allow time, if need be, for

negotiations, with a view to reaching consensus on the draft resolutions.

item will be held on 14 November, as will be announced in the *Journal*.

In this connection, I should like to inform Members that the first meeting of the informal consultations on this

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.